

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH WILLIAM WEST BERRIGAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph William West Berrigan, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph William West Berrigan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JACK MICHAELS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, NORTHWEST CHAPTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor an extraordinary individual from my district who is a true American hero, Jack Michaels. He is an ordinary man with an extraordinary story. Unless you are a friend or a family member you may not recognize his face, or have ever heard his name. Indeed, there are millions of Americans like him—Americans who have sacrificed so much for our country and do not receive nearly enough recognition in return for their service. Let me introduce you to one of many forgotten warriors.

Jack Michaels flew an assault helicopter in Vietnam that was shot down in 1970. His copilot was killed and Jack was left in a wheelchair for life. For his sacrifice he received a Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

From that point on, he became determined to advocate for the rights of disabled veterans. His own experiences inspired him to help launch the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Vets of America. Though it began with only 10 members, it has grown into a strong organization with over 400 members. The national PVA director calls him the backbone and guiding light of the chapter. Through his support, the Northwest Chapter has evolved into a strong advocate for veterans.

To illustrate his commitment, before the Northwest Chapter was even a part of the national PVA, he was instrumental in lobbying with the Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities to get the King County Metro bus system to buy buses that would allow people in wheelchairs to ride. Before his work on this issue, no bus in King County was equipped to take a person in a wheelchair. This change has dramatically improved the lives of many by giving them the power of mobility. Impressively, Washington State's version of the Americans with Disabilities Act is actually stronger than the Federal version as a result of Jack's efforts. Jack has also worked tirelessly on a range of other issues affecting disabled veterans.

Now, 30 years after Jack Michaels helped launch the Northwest Chapter of the PVA, Jack is retiring as the chapter's executive director. Despite his upcoming retirement, he still plans to continue his battle for disabled veterans and will continue his work as a volunteer for the chapter he has served for so many years. Jack Michaels made a sacrifice for his country, and in the following years has continued to give still more. Over the years he has made his local and national community a better place by fighting for the rights of his fellow veterans. He deserves our utmost respect, admiration, and commendation for his achievements. I thank him for continuing to fight for liberty at home, and for volunteering to improve daily life for his fellow veterans, knowing all too well the sacrifices they have made.

TRIBUTE TO DON ORGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Organ, my old friend and advisor, of Marin County, California, who died June 21, 2006, at the age of 77. Don advised me on my first congressional campaign in 1992 and continued to be a valued supporter through the ensuing years.

Don's career in politics evolved after he retired from a 27-year career managing nonprofit organizations, mostly in the public health field. After my 1992 campaign, he went on to develop a political consulting business with his wife Doris that focused primarily on Democrats and women candidates. He ran BARBARA BOXER's "Be a Boxer" campaign as well as efforts for local candidates such as Marin Assessor Joan Thayer, Judge Vernon Smith, Community College Trustees Eva Long and Greg Brockbank, and City Council Members Paul Cohen, Barbara Heller, and Carole Dillon-Knutson.

Born in Minneapolis, Don was raised in Los Angeles and graduated from Pomona College. After serving in the Korean war, he studied education at UC Berkeley and taught high

school for a short time before entering the nonprofit world. With his wife Doris and his two sons, he moved around the country to pursue this work, and the family lived in Wyoming, Chicago, Washington, DC, Birmingham, and Kansas City, before settling in Fairfax in Marin County in 1987.

Don soon joined the Marin Democratic Central Committee, ran unsuccessfully for the Marin Community College Board, and rapidly became a political fixture in the county. He was an active member of the National Women's Political Caucus in Marin where his support was so valued that he was the only male included in their 2006 Movers and Doers Calendar.

That first unsuccessful campaign for College Board is fondly recalled by Don's son Kris: He recruited my brother Larry and me to walk precincts with him, which I thought was pretty bold of him, as he and Mom had just moved to Marin County the year before. Larry and I were the established names in Contra Costa County.

We handed out a piece of literature Dad had put together stating his goals for the College, giving his background and including a photograph. We walked a Novato precinct, and a voter said to him, "Oh, I'm glad I met you in person. You look fat in this picture, but you're not fat. Fat people should never get elected, because they're lazy. But, I'll vote for you." Dad replied with his broad smile, "Well, I'm glad we met too. All this precinct walking has been good for me." Then, he told his boys, "That's how important a good picture is!" He came in last for the College Board, but I think those lessons made a difference in handling other candidates whose pictures were always the best.

Don is survived by Doris, his wife of almost 52 years, and two sons, Kris Organ, Executive Director of Service Employees International Union Local 949 and his daughter Serena; and Larry Organ, civil rights attorney, his wife Susan and 3 daughters, Robyn, Meg, and Jane, all of whom live in Marin County.

Mr. Speaker, Don Organ enriched Marin with his work and his support of many candidates, both men and women, who are leaders in the community. His family has asked that we "keep his memory" in our hearts. I will certainly do that as I mourn the loss of this friend and colleague whom I valued as an ally in my endeavors on behalf of California's Sixth District.

SILVER STAR MEDAL PRESENTED TO DONALD F. FULTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major Donald F. Fulton, USAF Ret., a resident of Vacaville, California, who has been awarded the Silver Star

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Medal for extraordinary gallantry in action while on a combat mission. The incident took place on August 14, 1969 when Maj. Fulton was serving in the United States Air Force as a Forward Air Controller, FAC, while supporting classified combat operations in Laos during the Vietnam War. Approval was announced by the Department of the Air Force for the award of the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor, to Donald F. Fulton.

Don Fulton is a native of New York City, NY, and has lived in the Vacaville, CA, area since 1975. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in 1965.

As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he served as a FAC while assigned to Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, TASS. On August 14, 1969, Captain Fulton was the pilot of a lightly armed observation aircraft (O-2) and was participating in aerial flight deep inside Laos in support of Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group, MAC-V SOG, Command and Control Central (CCC). Operating under call sign Covey 538, Captain Fulton coordinated Tactical Air Support for an eight-man Special Operations Strategic Reconnaissance Team while it conducted Operation Sad Sam, a raid on a major North Vietnamese Army unit headquarters. Recon Team New York was subsequently heavily engaged by a North Vietnamese Infantry Regiment and was immobilized with casualties and surrounded at dusk in mountainous rain forest. With a low ceiling and heavy rain approaching, and no tactical air support immediately available, Captain Fulton, firing marking rockets and an M-16 rifle, made numerous aerobatic, treetop level attacks on the enemy forces. During these passes, he was subjected to heavy fire from small arms, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and 23mm and 37mm antiaircraft weapons, inflicting substantial battle damage to his aircraft. His actions forestalled enemy attacks on the besieged Recon Team, until tactical air support could arrive. Subsequently, Captain Fulton directed the air assets in attacking the enemy and in conducting a night extraction of the Reconnaissance Team during a heavy rainstorm, while his fuel level dropped to near empty.

In his recommendation for the award of the Silver Star to Major Fulton, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Wolcott, U.S. Army, Ret., stated that the "operation resulted in the discovery of a major enemy headquarters and nearby main force bivouacs and fortifications, which were subjected to aerial attack and subsequently ground attack by an exploitation force from CCC, whereby the enemy sustained heavy losses and was forced to abandon the complex. The Sad Sam operation and subsequent ground operation caused the enemy to reinforce security in its sanctuary area at the expense of main force units, and its order of battle in South Vietnam was decremented."

Major Donald Fulton is also the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER LEWIS RICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. Alex was born on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, 2006, to his proud parents, Robert and Sarah Rice, of Chillicothe, Missouri. Alex entered the world at 9:33 p.m. at Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri, weighing a healthy 6 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 inches long.

Alex also has proud grandparents, Lewis and Kathy Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, and Kevin and Sandy Coan, of Omaha, Nebraska, to spoil him. Alex is also the nephew of Sarah and Travis Woodward, of Bowie, Maryland, Nathaniel Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, Brian and Carrie Costanzo of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Thomas and Elle Coan of Abilene, Texas.

I find it quite appropriate that Alex was born on such a patriotic holiday as Flag Day considering that his father was one of my first interns while I served in the Missouri State Senate. I see great things in Alex's future considering his parents' and grandparents' great emphasis on family values, public service and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. I wish Alex the best life has to offer, and I am proud to now serve him in the United States Congress.

A TIME OF HOPE FOR NAGORNO-KARABAGH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the pleasure of meeting with Nagorno-Karabagh's Foreign Minister George Petrosian and National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghulian. I have long supported the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabagh and greatly admire the efforts of the people of this historically Armenian region to build democracy and a market economy in the face of hostility from Azerbaijan.

It is a time of hope for a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict that has plagued the South Caucasus for 15 years.

The Armenian and Azeri leadership have, for several years, been negotiating to turn a ceasefire into a more durable peace. It is a process that has been long, tiring and frustrating. I applaud the persistence and commitment of the Nagorno-Karabagh authorities and the government of Armenia and I hope that all of their efforts are slowly, but surely, paying off.

In the last week, the new U.S. Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza announced the framework of an agreement that Armenian and Azeri political leaders will soon discuss in an effort to settle the conflict once and for all. In a statement that was issued by the U.S. embassy in Yerevan yesterday, the Minsk Group's American, French and Russian co-chairs said the proposal envisages a self-

determination referendum to be held in Karabagh after the redeployment of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories surrounding Karabagh.

I hope that this announcement will clear the way for a brighter future for the Karabagh people and for the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is a sad consequence of the war that Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh have been subjected to a cruel and illegal blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, a blockade that continues to undermine the prospects for peace.

Armenia and the government of Nagorno-Karabagh have persisted in looking for ways to ease regional tensions, but the Azeris have too often responded by walking away. It is also not helpful that Azerbaijan has persistently talked of a military build-up even as it ostensibly negotiates with the Karabagh and Armenia. Last December's desecration of Armenian khatchars in Azerbaijan also poisoned the atmosphere surrounding the talks.

I am pleased that the Azeri hostility has not gone unnoticed by our government. Last Thursday, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryza spoke to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In response to a question about whether the conflict could resume, he said that it is from the Azeri side "where you most often hear those sorts of threats." And in light of the oil revenues, he went on to say that "It's really quite unhelpful make statements that imply that this increased wealth is going to lead to purchases of arms and military threats."

In my meeting with them, I told Foreign Minister Petrosian and Speaker Ghulian how much I admire their commitment to peace and their leadership. Too many families have lost loved ones as a result of this conflict. It has been far too long that displaced refugees have been homeless.

We seem to be at a real turning point in the history of the Caucasus region and I am proud that the United States is playing a significant role in the peace process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than 27 million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2026 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will go back into State clean water funds. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.

This legislation is sorely needed. Many major cities along the Great Lakes do not have the infrastructure needed to divert sewage overflows during times of heavy rainfall. In 2004, the city of Milwaukee dumped 1.6 billion gallons of sewage into Lake Michigan. Sewage pollutes our waters and poses grave health risks to people exposed to it. It also results in beach closings.

Although there was no direct correlation between Milwaukee's sewage dumping and the closing of Chicago-area beaches in 2004, Cook County beach closings nearly tripled from 213 in 2003 to 613 in 2004. I am particularly concerned over the 150 beach day closings in my congressional district in 2004, the latest year tracked. This trend is echoed throughout the Great Lakes region and is one we need to reverse.

Protecting our Great Lakes is one of my top priorities in the Congress. As an original cosponsor of both the Great Lakes Restoration Act and the Save Our Water from Sewage Act, I favor a broad approach to addressing needs in the region. However, we must also move forward with tailored approaches to fix specific problems as we continue to push for more comprehensive reform. I am proud to introduce this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes, and hope my colleagues will support me in ensuring that these important resources become free from the threat of sewage pollution.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE COLONEL GARRETT HARENCAK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of U.S. Air Force Colonel Garrett Harencak and I wish him good luck as he makes a permanent change of station to Air Combat Command.

Colonel Harencak commanded the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas from August 2003 to July 2006. Throughout his service at Dyess, he has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for base personnel while providing combat-ready B-1 aircraft, crews and combat support for the United States military.

His tenure in the Big Country is markedly impressive. Team Dyess has won over 40 organizational and individual awards since 2003. Earlier this year, Dyess became the first bomb wing in 13 years to receive an overall outstanding rating following an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection. In addition, Dyess has received more energy awards than any other military base in the Nation.

Furthermore, Colonel Harencak and his wife, Tanya, were the privileged recipients of the ACC level of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award for 2006. This distinguished award recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the Nation, the Air Force and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

Colonel Harencak truly demonstrates what it means to be a great principal of our country. He has served the Air Force, the men and

women of Team Dyess, and the local Abilene community proudly. There is no doubt in my mind that Colonel Harencak has contributed significantly to defending freedom and saving lives. I also know that, as a result of his leadership Dyess will flourish. And it will remain one of our Nation's most important bases for years to come.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend Colonel Harencak for his dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best of luck in his next assignment at Air Combat Command.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF KEARNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the city of Kearney, Missouri. The city of Kearney has long played a vital role as one of the most outstanding communities in Missouri and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Kearney in 1856.

Kearney was originally settled under the name of Centerville and was first laid out by David T. Duncan and W.A. Cave in the spring of 1856. Eleven years later in 1867, the city of Kearney was again laid out by John Lawrence and was incorporated as a town or village by the Clay County Court April 5, 1869. Kearney was vital to the growth and development of Clay County in those early days as a major thoroughfare for the railroads and that growth and development continues to this day.

As the original birthplace of the infamous outlaw Jesse James, today Kearney has embraced its heritage as a fixture of the Old West and holds the wildly popular Jesse James Festival each year. The festival is just one event among the numerous activities that makes Kearney a wonderful place to work and raise a family. Kearney remains an economic and social focal point of Clay County, bringing in families throughout the country to this historic area and welcoming businesses that are seeking a friendly and vibrant community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the achievements of Kearney, Missouri, over the past 150 years. Kearney is a wonderful community and its future will surely be as bright as the past 150 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent such a fine community in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT OF 2006

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania and I are introducing the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006. We are joined by a bipartisan group of original cosponsors, a complete list of which follows this statement.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000, the TBI Act is designed to promote

sound and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, research, education, treatment and community-based services and supports for individuals living with a TBI and their families. The Act also encourages basic and translational scientific research.

It is the only Federal law that specifically addresses the issues faced by persons with brain injury.

As a founding co-chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have witnessed first hand how these programs make a difference in people's lives and have worked to educate your colleagues on the enormous impact traumatic brain injury has on our society.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a leading cause of death and disability in young Americans. Approximately 1.4 million Americans experience TBI each year. Every 21 seconds, one person in the United States sustains a traumatic brain injury. About half of these cases result in at least short-term disability, and 50,000 people die as a result of their injuries. Every year about 80,000 people sustain severe brain injuries leading to long term disability.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans are living with long term, severe disability as a result of brain injury. The national cost is estimated at more than \$60 billion annually.

Individuals with TBI account for 2 percent of the total US population and represent nearly 10 percent of our Nation's disability population.

The statistics involving brain injury are increasing even more now that reports show that traumatic brain injuries account for 14 percent to 20 percent of casualties for those who survive combat in Iraq. Despite the staggering statistics, TBI remains the "silent epidemic" in this country.

In fact, the annual incidence and prevalence of TBI is higher than breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and HIV/AIDS combined. Despite these staggering statistics, TBI remains a silent epidemic plaguing our Nation.

Traumatic Brain Injury is a unique issue. An epidemic so vast it is almost overwhelming and so personal its effects defy definition. It is a global health problem and there is no cure.

For 10 years, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act has successfully provided direction and legal authority for the vast traumatic brain injury community. The Act was not designed to provide direct care to persons with TBI, but rather, to inform. Before the TBI Act, the State governments were left basically on their own. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants have helped states to improve access to health and other services for persons with TBI. Prior to the 1996 law, they did not have the tools to even assess their own needs.

Thanks to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we now have a record of incidents including details and prevalence, plans for prevention, and finally, access to treatment. We have also begun to educate the public and provide much needed scientific data for our scientists, healthcare providers and policy makers.

In 1998, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a report on the rehabilitation of persons with brain injury. The consensus was that more research was needed so the NIH established brain injury centers all over the country.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006 builds on the law's successes.

It directs the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to make grants to States to coordinate, expand, and enhance service delivery systems and charges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with identifying strategies to prevent TBI, as well as increasing awareness and understanding of TBI by implementing public education programs. Finally, the legislation directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct much needed basic and applied research on brain injury rehabilitation and development of a cure.

With such a vast and diverse community, it is often difficult for the TBI community to speak with a unified voice. This bill represents a consensus among the national stakeholders who strongly support swift action on the bill this year.

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force is dedicated to the health of these programs as part of a larger goal of improving the quality of life for those who have sustained brain injuries.

Mr. Speaker, only a strong commitment will allow us to continue the incredible advances we have made in the area of basic brain research; prevention, detection and early treatment; physical and mental rehabilitation; long-term care and patient advocacy issues.

I invite my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without delay.

Original Cosponsors, The Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006: PLATTS, ANDREWS, BOSWELL, BOUCHER, BOYD, BRADY (PA), BROWN (SC), BROWN (OH), CAPUANO, CLEAVER, DAVIS (VA), DAVIS (CA), DAVIS (IL), DEFazio, DRAKE, EMANUEL, ETHERIDGE, FARR, GOODE, G. GREEN (TX), HAYES, HERSETH, HIGGINS, HINCHEY, HINOJOSA, HOLDEN, HOLT, INGLIS, JACKSON LEE, JEFFERSON, KENNEDY (RI), KILDEE, KUHLE, LOBIONDO, MARKEY, MCCARTHY, MCCOTTER, MCDERMOTT, MCGOVERN, MCNULTY, MEEKS, MILLER (FL), MORAN (VA), NADLER, NEAL, OWENS, PALLONE, PAYNE, RUPPERSBERGER, SANDERS, SEXTON, SCHWARTZ (PA), STRICKLAND, TOWNS, VAN HOLLEN, WAXMAN, WEXLER, WOOLSEY, WYNN.

REMEMBERING STAN TORGERSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today, Mississippi pays her respect to a man whose career in journalism and media spanned seven decades: he was "The Voice" of the Ole Miss Rebels for 17 years, he counted sports legends and musical stars as his friends, and any elected official in Mississippi whom he called was certain to respond in person. Today, Meridian buries a great citizen of our State: Stan Torgerson.

Stan passed away at Rush Hospital in Meridian on Monday night at the age of 82, still active in his lifelong media career. He told the Meridian Star last year, "I will continue to work as long as I think I can be productive. I believe in work ethic. I work for three reasons: (1) It's fun; (2) I think I am reasonably good

at it; and, (3) It gives me something to do that I enjoy doing. For me, it's not just a way of adding to my income. It's fun."

Stan began his fun work after returning from service in the Navy during World War II. He became a sports broadcaster and disc jockey and moved into radio management. He worked markets in Memphis, Miami, and San Diego and purchased WQIC in Meridian in 1968. While in Memphis, Stan developed a friendship with Sam Phillips and pumped the Sun Records sound over the airwaves as he got to know personally the likes of Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis. During his sports broadcasting he interviewed Babe Ruth, called games with Hank Aaron playing, and jointly called a game with Harry Caray. Stan used to say "I like to watch the game on the radio. The pictures are better."

For 17 years Stan called play-by-play for Ole Miss basketball; and did the same for 15 years for Ole Miss football. He called about 450 basketball games and 185 football games. As noted during WTOK's tributes to Stan, he was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame and was recognized by the Jackson Touchdown Club as one of the Four Most Famous Voices in Mississippi Sports. He also received an Award of Merit from the Ole Miss Alumni Association. He served as an elector on the Heisman Trophy Committee and was appointed chairman of the Mississippi Heisman Trophy Committee in 1993 and served in that capacity for 12 years. In 2005, Stan was appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to a 6-year term on the Mississippi Athletic Commission.

After retiring from his radio station, Stan went to work first as a sports stringer and later as a reporter for the Meridian Star. After several years in print, he moved to WTOK television in Meridian where he worked until his retirement last month. As a journalist Stan was known for hard and insightful questions, but delivered in a fair and honest manner. As a friend, I knew Stan as a man of wit and wisdom. Even in retirement, he continued writing his syndicated sports and culture columns and hosted a monthly wine tasting.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress joins me in remembering Stan Torgerson and expressing our sympathy to his wife of 59 years, Dorothy, and the families of his children Barbara and Larry Stan. For over half a century the airwaves of our country carried the sound of Stan's voice. It is silent now, but the memories will continue to be as vivid as those pictures he painted on the radio.

CRUISE LINES OVERTIME ABUSES

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the markup session of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, there was a great debate over whether the seaman's wage penalty law should be changed. These changes have been sought by the foreign-flag cruise industry which has had to payout millions of dollars in damages for not paying thousands of their workers the overtime they had accrued for working more than 70 hours per week.

The Members of this body may be unaware of the types of worker abuses that have occurred in the cruise industry. I am submitting for the record the testimony of Luis Bolanos in support of his claim in U.S. District Court that shows the type of fear and intimidation that cruise ship workers live under if they ask for the overtime pay they have earned.

DECLARATION OF LUIS BOLANOS

Pursuant to 28 USC §1746, Luis Bolanos, hereby declares, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct.

1. I am a class representative in this litigation seeking unpaid overtime wages for me and my co-workers who worked in the catering departments of Norwegian Cruise Lines vessels. We were required by NCL to regularly work more than 70 hours per week but NCL never were paid wages for this overtime work.

2. I was born in Penon Kundinamarca, Colombia on March 2, 1943. I currently am 61 years old. I have a fifth grade education from schools in Colombia. I read and write Spanish. I understand very little English, and I can only read a little English. I have a wife, a son and a daughter. I presently live at 14323 S.W. 180th Terrace, Miami, FL 33177. My son is a veterinary doctor and my daughter works for the United States government.

3. I worked for NCL for over 20 years. The following is my service history, since 1998, with the Norwegian Cruise Line company, as best as I can recall:

Vessel, Dates of Employment, Job Position:

Norway, 10/97—mid August 1998, 2d Pastryman.

Norway, 11/7/98–8/28/99, 2d Pastryman.

Norway, 11/99–8/12/00, 2d Pastryman and 1st Pastryman.

Norway, Approx. 11/00–2/17/01, 1st Pastryman.

4. While employed for NCL as a Pastryman, I was responsible for making cakes, cookies, pastries and other baked goods. I worked in the galley of the ship. The jobs of a Pastryman include serving on the main food lines in the galley, cleaning; working at outdoor restaurant buffet once a week at midnight, making pastries and serving the pastries to the waiters who then served it to passengers in the dining room; making breads and cakes and pies and cookies. This work is done in a designated area of the main galley. Approximately twice per week, our department had to do what the company calls "Deep Cleaning" before the ship would come into a U.S. Port. Deep cleaning made the works especially hard because the cleaning we had to do had to make our department absolutely spotless. We had to clean every little space and clean up every speck of dirt. This would sometimes make our work days a little longer. In addition, all of the workers in the Pastry Department had to attend Department Meetings that lasted from 20–30 minutes every morning, and we had to attend another meeting at night once a week or once every two weeks. As a member of the crew, I also had to attend and participate in Fire and Life Boat Drills approximately once per week which would take approximately 1–1½ hours.

5. The itinerary of the Norway was almost always from Miami to various islands in the Caribbean and back to Miami. When I signed on and off the ship, I always signed on and off in Miami, which is where my voyages ended and I was paid my salary. I do recall the ship sailing some of the time in Europe, but mostly we sailed to and from Miami. When we sailed out of Miami, the voyages were normally 7 day voyages from Miami to the Caribbean and back.

6. During the period from October 1997 through February 17, 2001, in every week I worked I always worked about 100 hours per week. My standard work hours were as follows:

Sunday thru Friday: 1:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Thus, I worked approximately 14½ hours per day Sunday through Friday.

Saturday: 4:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. plus 2 additional hours during which I was required to work at the midnight buffet. Thus, on Saturday, I worked a 15 hour day.

7. I observed the hours worked by the other pastry chefs on the ship. They worked usually from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m. every day. Thus, they worked approximately a 12 hour work day.

8. In the course of a 10 month tour of duty, I would work with approximately 14–15 different workers. These would include the workers who were on the ship when I started my contract, and the individuals who replaced these workers as their contract periods finished.

9. During the twenty years that I worked for NCL, on the S/S *Norway*, I had daily opportunities to observe the hours of work of other people in the food preparation and handling departments, as well as the pantry and utility workers. There are close to 150 people who worked at any one time in the ship's galley. In the Pastry Department, I observed that the other workers all would work more than 70 hours per week. As I recall, the following is the number of Pastrymen I worked with: between 1998 and 2001, we had four (4) 2d Pastrymen, one (1) 1st Pastryman, and two (2) Assistant Pastrymen, except that there were some periods of time that we would carry only three (3) 2d Pastrymen. Based on my personal observation, these NCL employees, on the vessel on which I was employed, all worked 12 or more hours a day, at least six and sometimes seven days a week. All worked in excess of 70 hours a week. The workers, when we had some free time, would talk about our long hours.

10. I learned what my schedule was by what I was told by the Chef, by observing the other workers, and knowing all of the work I had to accomplish each day. The volume of the work I had to do required me to work the long hours I described. There was no written schedule of my hours. It did not matter who my supervisor was. My supervisors, the Executive Chefs on the ship, often changed. When a new Executive Chef came aboard the ship, my hours would remain the same, and so did the other Pastry Chef's hours remain the same.

11. During the entire time that I worked from October 1997 through February 17, 2001, I was never paid extra overtime pay for the hours that I worked in excess of 70 hours per week, as was called for by the contract between Norwegian Cruise Lines and the Norwegian Seaman's Union.

12. Sometime during my service with NCL I became aware that there was a union that had a contract which affected my employment with NCL. This union is known as the Norwegian Seafarer's Union. I learned about it by seeing a copy of the agreement between the company and the union which was in a little red booklet. In 1998, I was given a copy of the contract. In the booklet it states that the pay scale is attached as "Annex 1". However, the pay scale was not attached to the contract, and while I worked for the company, I never saw the pay scale which supposedly set my base pay and monthly total guaranteed wage, and overtime rates. Trial exhibit "8" is a copy of the little red book I was given on the ship.

13. I never saw any union employees or workers come aboard the *Norway* to discuss the contract it had with NCL. I never met a

union representative, and none ever came on the ship while I worked on it. I know of no officers or other employees of the union.

14. Workers on the ship are very much afraid of losing their jobs. Many of them, like me, come from poor families in poor countries. The union cannot prevent people from being fired for trivial things, and there is no guaranty that you will be rehired at the end of your contract. For these reasons, people on the ship do not complain about conditions or the lack of payment of overtime because they are afraid they will be called a troublemaker by supervisors and soon be fired. For people from poor countries, such as from where I came, working on a cruise ship is a good paying job even though the working conditions are terrible. I did not complain about not being paid overtime because I could not afford to lose my job. I had a family to support and they depended on the money I earned.

15. I heard from about 2 people I knew on the ship that said that they complained to an Executive Chef or one of the Sous Chefs about not being paid for overtime hours worked and they were told that the company did not have the money to pay overtime, that is why we were not paid overtime.

16. I worked 7 days a week for as many as 10 months consecutively during my contract periods. I would not see my family for long periods of time which was very sad, however, I had to work, otherwise, my family would have suffered.

17. As a Pastryman, I was given \$15 per week for my special skills in preparing items for what is known as the Chocaholic buffet, which was a midnight buffet with many deserts and pastries. The money I was paid was not for overtime, even though at times on my monthly pay check the weekly \$15 payment was listed in a category called "Overtime". This was paid to me and the other Pastrymen as bonus pay for doing the work for the special function, a side job, and it was not for the time we spent preparing it. In late 1997 and early 1998, I was being paid around \$180 per month in bonus money for preparing the Chocaholic Buffet. In mid-1998, this bonus was reduced to around \$60 per month.

18. I was very diligent about how I did my job, and I tried to make sure that everything I and my co-workers made was of good quality. In January 2001, I was reprimanded for throwing out a sponge cake that did not come out well. It was baked with frozen eggs because the galley had run out of fresh eggs. The frozen eggs did not work well in the batter, so the cake did not rise well. I knew that this cake could not be served to the passengers. I was reprimanded for throwing it out. Then, in February 2001, I was again reprimanded for having taken some tin bake pans that had been washed to my station. I did not know it, but some of the pans were not washed well and were still somewhat dirty. During an inspection, the pans were seen by a supervisor and he blamed me for having dirty pans in my station. I had not used the pans yet, and did not know that they were not perfectly clean. I would not have used them when it came time to bake with them. Still, I was blamed and was told to sign the warning they tried to give me or be fired. As I felt I was not at fault, I told them I would not sign the warning, so I was fired.

19. I never was told that a supervisor had to give me a special order or I had to ask for approval to work the hours necessary to get the work done. There were no time clocks or time sheets or other methods, of which I am aware, by which NCL recorded the working hours of the crew members in my department. However, my supervisors knew the long hours I was working, and those of the

other workers in my department, because it was the supervisors who directed me to get the work done. They would come and observe the work, and required it to be completed to their satisfaction.

20. On my pay envelope and the payroll register there never was a listing of the number of hours I worked multiplied by an hourly rate showing extra overtime pay.

21. After I was fired by NCL, I took a job in a "Publix" supermarket, bagging groceries.

RECOGNIZING AUSTIN MICHAEL MARTENS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Michael Martens, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Michael Martens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LISA NOWAK

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend one of my constituents, Lisa Nowak, a member of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) space shuttle Discovery crew set to perform the STS-121 mission to the International Space Station on July 1, 2006. Ms. Nowak was selected as one of seven members of the Discovery crew, where she will serve as a mission specialist.

With her experience in the U.S. Navy and at NASA, Ms. Nowak's participation in the STS-121 mission represents the culmination of a career filled with numerous accomplishments. Ms. Nowak graduated from C.W. Woodward High School in Rockville, Maryland and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985 and Masters of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. After receiving her commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985, Ms. Nowak became a Naval Flight Officer in 1987. While serving as a Naval test pilot, Ms. Nowak received several prestigious awards, including the Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal. In 1996, Ms. Nowak was selected by NASA, becoming

a mission specialist after completing two years of training and evaluation. The STS-121 mission in July will be Ms. Nowak's first mission into space.

During the STS-121 mission to the International Space Station, the crew of the space shuttle Discovery will test new equipment and procedures that increase the safety of the space shuttle. Its mission will be to complete an analysis of safety improvements that debuted on the Return to Flight mission, STS 114, and build upon those tests.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to Ms. Nowak. Her work plays a vital role in continued advances and improvements to our space program. Her courage, hard work, and accomplishments serve as an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS FROM WASHINGTON, CLINTON, MARION AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty fire departments from Washington, Clinton, Marion and Jefferson Counties in Illinois that, through strength and courage, worked together to put out a massive fire at a warehouse in Nashville, IL. The paint, aerosol cans and paint solvent in the building made the fire especially dangerous. 190 firefighters, of whom 180 were volunteers, worked to put out flames in 800 degree heat to stop the fire from spreading past the 18,000-square-foot section of the warehouse where it initially started.

Under the leadership of Nashville Fire Chief Alan Holt and Assistant Chief Ric James, these men spent 12 hours fighting the fire and accomplished their goal of keeping it contained. Most of the 104,000-square-foot building was saved, and the room next to the fire suffered only smoke and water damage.

I am pleased to thank the fire departments of Nashville, Centralia, Mount Vernon, Hoyleton, Addieville, Okawville, Ashely, Bartelso, Breese, Aviston, Carlyle, Beckemeyer, Germantown, Wheatfield Township, Hoffman, St. Rose, Trenton, Albers, New Baden, and Huey/Ferrin/Boulder for their tremendous effort. I commend them on their display of bravery and dedication.

FISH STOCKING IN THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COM- PLEX

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will enable the continued stocking of fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex, which includes the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

For many decades, volunteer groups—working with the State of Washington have stocked trout in a number of lakes in this area. This provides enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities in the North Cascades.

As you may know, the National Park Service as a general policy is moving away from artificially stocking fish. In this case, however, a 12-year university review indicates that the fish stocking program can be carried out in such a way as to not adversely affect the environment.

In order to protect this longstanding practice in the North Cascades, I am introducing legislation today that affirms that fish stocking can continue under certain conditions. While I believe the National Park Service already has the authority to do this under the act that established the park in 1968, the agency requires further clarification from Congress in order to proceed with a proposed management plan revision that would allow this practice to continue under the auspices of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I am pleased to be joined today upon introduction of this bill by RICK LARSEN, NORM DICKS, and CATHY McMORRIS. I look forward to working with my colleagues from Washington to make sure that our constituents can continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities created by fish stocking in the North Cascades.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA WEST

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua West a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua West for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO SAME RACADIO FOR 18 YEARS AS CITY MAN- AGER OF HIGHLAND, CALI- FORNIA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to a longtime public servant, Sam Racadio, who as city manager has been a guiding force in the growth of Highland, California from an unformed new city into a municipality known for a dedication to a high standard of living.

For the past 35 years, Sam Racadio has been a hard-working and energetic public servant in city government. He went to work as an intern in the City of Riverside just after graduating from the University of Redlands, and even spent several years in the Peace Corps as a municipal advisor in Maracay, Venezuela.

After some years in city government in Tulare, California, Sam Racadio returned to the Inland Empire as city manager for three years in Banning, California—a fast-growing city in my district.

The late 1980s were a boom time for new cities in San Bernardino County, and one of the most promising, but least organized, of those new municipalities decided to hire Mr. Racadio as its first city manager. When he joined Highland in 1987, he was just the second employee of the city of 28,000, and the city government worked out of a small trailer.

Highland had a small commercial tax base and few businesses of any size when it gained cityhood, and some analysts warned that the new city would have a shaky budget and could fail. To save money for the future, Mr. Racadio vacuumed floors, cleaned bathrooms and gathered up trash.

By continuing that dedication to saving taxpayer dollars, Sam Racadio has helped build Highland into a thriving city that now has a population of more than 50,000. There are three new parks, a City Hall, and a community center. Coming soon are a municipal pool, a library and athletic center.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to work with Mr. Racadio on the development of a city environmental learning center, which will provide access to hands-on, state-of-the-art science facilities for school children and city residents. When it is completed, it will be a model for cooperation between city officials, schools and federal agencies.

As my colleagues can imagine, Mr. Racadio's visionary work as a city manager has been widely recognized among his peers. He has served on the League of California Cities Board of Directors, and was president of the City Manager's Department of the League in 1999. He was president of the San Bernardino County City Managers Association from 1990 to 1998. He was the inaugural recipient of the James A. Thalman Memorial Public Service Award from the Inland Division of the league of cities and received numerous other awards.

Mr. Speaker, after 35 years of public service and 18 years of dedication to the City of Highland, Sam Racadio is retiring to travel with his wife of 36 years, Len. Please join me in thanking him for all he has done to make his community a better place, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE VADALA

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mike Vadala as the Chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 1997, Mike has been a leader in the

credit union community both nationally and within my great State of New York.

For the past 9 years, Mr. Vadala has been balancing his time as a NAFCU Board Member including this past year as the Chairman of the NAFCU Board, along with his responsibilities as President/CEO of The Summit Federal Credit Union. With over 67,000 members in northern New York, The Summit FCU has fostered many savings programs targeted to today's youth by teaching the importance of saving through targeted programs ranging from kindergarten through college. Mr. Vadala has worked hard to promote financial education programs and has armed his members with protecting themselves against identity theft.

Throughout his tenure as Chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mr. Vadala worked tirelessly to enhance the federal credit union charter by working with Congress for regulatory relief legislation for credit unions. As Chairman, he has also helped maintain NAFCU's status as a leading credit union trade association.

Mr. Vadala has proven himself to be a true gentleman. I have seen him walking the halls of Congress many times carrying the torch for the credit union industry and he has testified before this Congress on multiple occasions on issues important to credit unions. Although there might have been occasion where we may have not agreed, this did not deter Mr. Vadala from continuing his loyal service to NAFCU.

Many would think that the work he does for credit unions would be enough to fill a day, but that is not the case. He is also a dedicated family man, as well. Mr. Vadala and his family have played a huge role in fundraising for the United Way in upstate New York. He was also the former Chairperson of the March of Dimes Walk America. His work with these organizations has made a huge impact on thousands of lives in New York and beyond. Also, Mr. Speaker I could refer to Mr. Vadala without mentioning that he is one of the biggest Syracuse Orange fan that I have ever had the privilege to meet. And I would like to share one more "Go Orange" with Mr. Vadala as he concludes his time on the NAFCU Board.

I rise today to congratulate Mr. Mike Vadala on his fine work throughout his illustrious tenure as Chair of NAFCU. I have worked with him on issues that are important to the credit union community in the past and I am committed to continuing this relationship. With more than 20 years experience in the credit union community, there is no doubt in my mind that our good friends at NAFCU will feel a great void once he steps down. Congratulations on your retirement from the NAFCU Board Mr. Vadala.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress act now to raise the minimum wage. In 2004, 37 million Americans lived below the poverty line, a 1.1 million increase from the year before. In 2004, 13 million children in America lived below the poverty line and more than one in six children was poor.

Yet in the richest country on earth, there is no guarantee that a full time job will lift a family out of a situation of dire poverty and need. That's because full-time year round minimum wage earnings of \$5.15 an hour equal leaves a family of three 31 percent below the poverty line. A minimum wage worker, working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year earns \$10,700 a year, \$5,000 below the poverty line for a family of three.

The current minimum wage fails to provide enough income to enable minimum wage workers to afford adequate housing. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, an employed full time worker would need to earn an hourly wage of at least \$15.78 to afford a two-bedroom rental nationally. At the current minimum wage, a family with two full time year round minimum wage earners would fall short of this standard by \$5.48 collectively. It's no wonder that so many families struggle to put a roof over their heads and food on the table. A 2005 study found that 40 percent of adults seeking emergency food aid were employed.

We can directly help these families and children by increasing the federal minimum wage. It is estimated that over 7 million workers would receive an increase in their hourly wage if the minimum wage were raised to just \$7.25 an hour, as proposed in Congressman MILLER's legislation, the Fair Minimum Wage Act. An additional 8.2 million workers earning up to a dollar above the new minimum wage would also benefit.

What kind of Nation have we become when work ceases to be a bridge out of poverty? A nation in which a basic full time job doesn't protect against hunger, homelessness, or poverty. It is a travesty that in the face of these realities, the realities that working Americans confront daily, Congress has not raised the minimum wage since 1997. We can and must change this by increasing the minimum wage now.

RECOGNIZING CHAD THOMAS STEPHENS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chad Thomas Stephens, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chad has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has camped at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for 6 years and attended the National Jamboree in 2005 while serving as the Senior Patrol Leader for Heart America Troop 1211. Over the many years Chad has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chad Thomas Stephens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY GILBERT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brittany Gilbert, who had the great honor of presenting her exhibit, "John James Audubon: The American Woodsman Taking a Stand," at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery before the National History Day contest. Brittany, a student at North Kingstown High School, and 18 other students were chosen out of more than 2,000 participating finalists.

The National History Day program allows students to create exhibits, documentaries and performances, by using their critical thinking and research skills in the subject of history. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy, and National History Day is promoting history education in Rhode Island and throughout the Nation. National History Day empowers teachers to improve history education so that every student will have historical knowledge and skills to contribute to the public good of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brittany, and may she have continued success in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE MACOMB COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AND THE MT. CLEMENS REGIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Macomb County Clerk's office and the Mt. Clemens Regional Social Security office for an innovative new partnership which is expected to improve customer service, reduce unnecessary administrative work, and save Social Security over \$257,000 over the next 5 years alone.

As you know, the Immigration Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act required the Social Security Administration to verify all birth records before issuing Social Security cards. In most offices, that means Social Security staff have to go in person to the county clerk's office with stacks of birth records, which the clerk's staff then manually verify. The process is time-consuming and labor-intensive for both offices, and sometimes results in unnecessary delays for people waiting for new or replacement Social Security cards.

Macomb County Clerk Carmela Sabaugh, in cooperation with Social Security Administration District Manager William Seaman, has implemented a very different system. Under Macomb County's system, Social Security employees are able to instantly verify birth record authenticity using a secure Internet page available only to Social Security employees with federal security clearance. The first-in-the-nation Macomb County process builds on the digital imaging for vital records that Sabaugh implemented last year. It's faster and easier, but no less effective and secure than the old way.

I'm proud that our local offices took the initiative and came up with a better way to implement this new requirement. Thanks to their innovation, staff will spend more time serving the public and less time processing paperwork. That's better for Social Security, better for the Clerk's office, and best of all, better for all the Macomb County residents they serve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WE THE PEOPLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning state laws and policies relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the president, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down state laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the federal government over the states.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down state and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on federal power. Furthermore, when federal judges impose their preferred policies on state and local governments, instead of respecting the policies adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual states. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop federal judges from running roughshod over state and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the

Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all fifty states, is flawed. The Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of state and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a state's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the *Lawrence* case, which overturned all state sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further federal usurpation of the states' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the states, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on state recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the states from out-of-control federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

RECOGNIZING JACOB LEE WIER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Lee Wier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has camped at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for six years and earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Lee Wier for his accom-

plishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AUTHORITY RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation to restore the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) authority to regulate marketing to children under the age of 18 in order to help eliminate an epidemic of overweight and obesity that studies link to pervasive advertising of junk food to the Nation's youth. A similar provision has been introduced as part of a larger bill in the Senate, and former President Clinton is taking a leading role in efforts to control the rapid increase in overweight and obesity in children. Yet Congress has failed to take decisive action, despite definitive studies that show that childhood obesity has become one of the Nation's most serious health issues, creating a surge in debilitating diseases we are seeing for the first time in kids.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 12.5 million children and adolescents, ages 2–19, are overweight, a rate that has tripled in the last 40 years. As a result, the incidence of Type 2 diabetes in children, a disease that is mainly associated with adults, has become widespread in recent years. Overweight children have a more than 70 percent chance of being overweight adults, putting them at risk for many serious health conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma and heart disease. Many of these children are obese in part because they watch so much television, on the average, over 2 hours a day. However, a study by the congressionally chartered Institute of Medicine (IOM) found extraordinary growth in new food products targeted to children, from just 52 new product introductions in 1994 to close to 500 just last year. Significantly, the IOM report finds that advertisements during children's programming feature foods high in fat, with little to no nutritional value.

The problem is even greater in programming geared toward African American television consumers, adults and children alike. A summer 2005 survey of programming on Black Entertainment Television (BET) found that 66 percent of the ads were for fast food commercials. The study monitored commercials during the afternoon hours, when children watch cartoons and "tween" shows. The WB Network and Disney Channel were also monitored in the study. During that time slot, over 1,000 ads were shown on all three channels. Only 34 percent of ads on the WB promoted fast foods, and none at all on the Disney channel. McDonald's was the leading fast food advertiser on BET. Further, 82 percent of advertisements on BET were for soda, with the WB at 11 percent. The Disney Channel accounted for only 6 percent of soda advertisements. Advertisements for snacks accounted for 60 percent of BET programming, 40 percent on the Disney Channel and none

on the WB. As a result of increased fast food advertising, children are more likely to consume an additional 167 calories a day, a caloric intake that further exacerbates already high obesity rates. Currently, obesity affects nearly 18 percent of black children compared to 14 percent of white children.

These studies are evidence that the estimated \$15 billion spent on junk food marketing in the last year is adversely affecting the eating habits, and consequently, the health of our nation's youth. This marketing is especially problematic in poor, predominately African American neighborhoods, many of which have no access to fresh and healthy food products due to a dearth in neighborhood grocery stores. This problem is highlighted here in the District where the lowest income wards attract corner convenience stores that feature unhealthy, fatty foods in abundance, but do not provide foods of significant nutritional value that assist both in the intellectual and physical growth and development of children.

The FTC and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have historically shared joint jurisdiction over advertising to children. The FCC first implemented regulations on children's advertising in 1974, setting limits on the amount of advertising per hour during children's programs, but these limits do not address the content of the ads. Under current law, the Children's Television Act of 1990, advertising during children's programming is restricted to no more than 10½ minutes per hour on the weekends, and 12 minutes per hour on the weekdays. However, these "restrictions" are simply an adoption of what is already the established industry norm.

In 1978, the Federal Trade Commission recommended banning television advertising to children under the age of eight after research at the time indicated that marketing to young children was unfair because young children do not understand the persuasive intent of advertising, thereby establishing an unfair and deceptive act or practice. However, industry lobbyists filed a lawsuit against the FTC, and lobbied Congress instead to pass the FTC Improvement Act of 1980, which stripped the FTC of its authority to issue industry-wide regulations to stop unfair advertising practices.

The debate still continues, however, as the IOM's recent report recommends banning television advertising to children even up to the age of twelve, and the American Psychological Association (APA) says that children under the age of nine cannot understand persuasive intent. Nevertheless, the methods for advertising products to children have become more sophisticated. Marketing strategies now include Internet games, specialized product placement in stores, as well as cartoon character endorsements like those that featured Sponge Bob Square Pants endorsing Burger King products, and promoting unhealthy eating habits.

Ironically, funding will lapse this year for a successful program I cosponsored that turned television on its head, and according to studies, has effectively used TV to get children active. The Youth Media Campaign—VERB™ program, the brainchild of the former chair of the Labor/HHS subcommittee, Jon Porter, with whom I collaborated when I had a similar bill, received no funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget, and the program, despite its demonstrated effectiveness, has received less and less funding since its inception, from

an initial appropriation of \$125 million. The VERB™ program focuses children on physical activity at a time when physical education is often no longer a required component of school curricula. Through print, radio, internet and television advertising targeted at the nation's 21 million children aged 9–13 years, VERB™ programming emphasized free-time, outside of the classroom where children traditionally are at play. The program also featured a multicultural message, giving extra focus to African American and Hispanic youth who have the highest incidence of childhood obesity. Most important, two recent evaluations of VERB™ have found the program to be remarkably effective. VERB™ offered the first concrete hope of progress against the alarming surge in debilitating diseases we are now seeing for the first time in children, and I sincerely hope that the Congress will again fund this program to ensure its continued success.

However, I am pleased to join with Senator TOM HARKIN, who has introduced this language in the Senate as part of a more comprehensive bill promoting healthy lifestyles and disease prevention. I am also pleased to join with others, such as former President Clinton, who has joined with the Nickelodeon Channel to promote responsible, healthy food choices and lifestyles. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE RIDE FOR LORRAINE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Ride for Lorraine, a charity bike ride to benefit the National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF) and raise awareness for stem cell research.

The Ride for Lorraine, a five-day bike ride beginning in Hartsdale, New York, honors Lorraine Valentini, a former High School English Literature teacher, volunteer firefighter, and U.S. Masters Gold Medal Cyclist. Lorraine's life was tragically altered in May 2005 when the spinal cord injuries she suffered in a bike accident left her paralyzed below the neck.

During the five-day trip, Lorraine's family, friends and supporters will stop at the Dana and Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation in New Jersey, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland, and finally here at the Capitol Building. I encourage all of my colleagues to listen to their message that stem cell research can bring cures and therapies for many devastating and debilitating conditions.

These dedicated, passionate participants are working hard to not only raise awareness for stem cell research, but to raise money for Lorraine's daily care and rehabilitation while directing donations to the NTAF to aid other transplant and catastrophic injury patients.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the efforts of teamLorraine.org and wishing the Ride for Lorraine participants luck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 27 and 28, 2006, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote Nos. 319, "yes"; 320, "yes"; 321, "yes"; 326, "no"; 327, "no"; 328, "no"; 329, "yes"; 330, "no"; 331, "no"; 332, "no"; 333, "no"; 334, "no"; 335, "no"; 336, "no"; 337, "no"; 338, "no"; 339, "no"; 340, "no"; 341, "no"; 342, "no"; 343, "no"; 344, "no"; 345, "no"; 346, "no."

RECOGNIZING BRENT TRAUGOT SAVIGNE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brent Traugot Savigne, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has camped at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for 6 years and earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Over the many years Brent has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brent Traugot Savigne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE STAR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Little Elm Journal, the McKinney Courier Gazette, and the Frisco Enterprise as they and their staffers took home numerous awards in the Texas Press Association's 2006 Better Newspapers Contest. These Star Community newspapers, which are read throughout my district, were among 194 papers and 1740 total entries in the contest.

The Little Elm Journal was named the best paper for news photography in a small weekly as well as receiving the winner's plaque for feature stories written by former staff writer Corina Miller. The Journal also took second place in news writing by community editor Devin Monk, third place in sports coverage, and fourth place in sweepstakes.

The McKinney Courier-Gazette took second-place honors in the small daily division for

page design and third-place recognition for feature stories. The Frisco Enterprise won a second-place prize for editorials; third place in general excellence; third places in feature story and feature photo; fourth places in sports photo and in headline writing. It was also fourth in the overall sweepstakes contest.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these newspapers on their outstanding achievements in journalism. Their hard work, dedication, and success in delivering the news and informing the community deserve the highest recognition and congratulations. Accurate and informative news is a cornerstone of democracy, and the Star Community papers are a credit to the journalism trade.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, last night, during a series of two-minute votes, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall No. 340. I had intended to vote "aye." I would like to make it clear for the record, that I do not support the multilingual ballot provision in the Voting Rights Act, and that I oppose such provisions that mandate financial burdens on the states and further divide this great Nation.

IN TRIBUTE TO JUNE PERRY, OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW CONCEPT SELF DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman in my district who has dedicated her career to improving the quality of life for African American children and their families. June Perry, co-founder and Executive Director of New Concept Self Development Center, retires this month after 31 years at the helm of this multifaceted human services agency.

Equipped with a master's degree in social work and experience working in Milwaukee County's child protective services, June Perry started New Concept Self Development Center in 1975. Understanding that intervening in the cycle of poverty requires prevention as well as treatment, she built an institution to provide appropriate and high quality mental health and social services to residents of Milwaukee's central city. Over the last three decades, New Concept tackled a wide range of issues, ranging from teen pregnancy and high school drop-out prevention to crisis counseling for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Always on the lookout for new ways to approach old problems, June Perry's leadership has been characterized by a passion for innovation, a strong commitment to collaboration, and the determination to do what it takes to serve the community.

Not only has Ms. Perry developed innovative social service programs, she is also a noted leader and expert in the field of non-

profit management. She has participated in management programs at the Denali Institute, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the prestigious Stanford University School of Business. She has received numerous national and local awards for her work, including the Women of Influence award from the Business Journal, the Trailblazer award from the Black Women's Network, and the President's Points of Light Award.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to say that June Perry's efforts have touched the lives of tens of thousands of Milwaukee residents, over the course of several generations. Rather than wait for someone else to address the problems that plague our community, she has never hesitated to step up and marshal resources to implement solutions. I am honored to have this opportunity to thank her for her tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to the children and families of our community, and to wish her a long and rewarding retirement.

SALUTING THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON TITANS IN COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and congratulate the Cal State Fullerton Titans' baseball team for their remarkable season and outstanding run at the College World Series title.

Cal State Fullerton made the journey to Omaha for the 14th time in the program's 32-year Division I history. The Titans hold four past College World Series Championships (1979, 1984, 1995, and 2004) and for the first time since 1995, they entered the College World Series undefeated in NCAA Tournament play by sweeping regional and super-regional play.

Although the Titans did not win the College World Series, their sweat and hard work paid off, as they had three players, Justin Turner, Danny Dorn and David Cooper represented on the 60th NCAA College World Series All-Tournament Team.

The Titans finished their remarkable season with a winning record of 50-15 and had nine players drafted in this year's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, which is an incredible accomplishment.

I admire the hard work and efforts of these young men after a long and competitive season. It is not an easy task to make it to the College World Series. The city of Fullerton and the State of California are very proud of your efforts.

Congratulations to head coach George Horton, assistant coaches Rick Vanderhook, Jason Gill, Ted Silva, the Titan baseball players, and all the Titan fans on a great season. Remember the Titans! Next year will be our year!

THE U.S.-OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have voted against every harmful and unbalanced trade agreement that has come before this house. I would welcome the opportunity to vote for an agreement with strong and enforceable labor and environmental protections. Unfortunately the U.S.-Oman FTA has neither of these and I will be voting against this bad trade deal. The FTA falls way short of the labor protections that must be included to make it an acceptable agreement.

This FTA is just like CAFTA. It looks the same . . . feels the same . . . and has the same problems. We need a "time-out" on trade and stop this "race to the bottom." Our trade policy has not been in the best interest of U.S. workers, small businesses, farmers or the economy and environment. Our trade agreements have not significantly raised the living standards in foreign nations. And U.S. trade policy has forced American workers to compete on an uneven playing field.

We must defeat this harmful and unbalanced U.S.-Oman FTA.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL OWEN O'MALLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Owen O'Malley, devoted family man, dear friend, United States Veteran and decorated Lieutenant with the Cleveland Police Department, Mr. O'Malley's courageous and compassionate heart framed his 45-year tenure with the Cleveland Police Department as Patrolman, Sergeant and Lieutenant.

Mr. O'Malley was born on June 30, 1930, to Michael and Mary O'Malley of County Mayo, Ireland. He was raised on the West side of Cleveland, where he was taught by his parents the significant lessons of family, faith and giving back to others. He graduated from Wes High School, enlisted in the U.S. Army and honorably served in the Korean War. In 1954, he married Mary Ginley O'Malley. Then, as today, family is the center and foundation of their lives. Together, Michael and Mary raised their six children: Patricia, Margaret, Michael, Patrick, James and Mary K., and remain a foundation of love and support for their children and nine grandchildren.

He was awarded several citations for bravery, one of which reflected his courage and selflessness as he placed his own life in danger when he entered a burning building and carried a resident out to safety.

Beyond time spent with family, Mr. O'Malley is an active member of the community. He is a longtime member of St. Angela's Parish, and has volunteered his time and talents with the West Side Irish American Club, American Legion, and the Mayo Society. Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley love and appreciate the simple treasures in life, including visiting relatives and

friends in Ireland, spending time at their condo in Catawba, and Mr. O'Malley's natural knack for making wonderful pancakes for his nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Michael Owen O'Malley, whose joyous life is an ongoing source of love, devotion, and inspiration to his family and friends as they gather to celebrate his 76th birthday and to recognize his continuous commitment to his family, friends and community. His work in securing the welfare and safety of the residents of the City of Cleveland is framed by exceptional courage, heart, dignity and integrity, and has forever raised the spirits and lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community. I wish Mr. O'Malley and his family an abundance of peace, health and happiness, today and for all days to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
GEORGE MCKEAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the life of George McKean. Mr. McKean was devoted to his family and to his hometown, Riverdale, where he was a prominent figure in agriculture, business and civic life. He passed away on May 18, 2006.

At a very young age, Mr. McKean became involved with their family's business, McKean's Grocery Store which they have owned for over 65 years. Aside from working at the grocery store, he was constantly involved in his community and has helped obtain services that were needed such as water, sewer, waste disposal and fire protection.

George played a significant role in his hometown's farming industry and its surrounding communities. He has had a longtime involvement in a farming operation in the Riverdale, Kings River and North Fork areas. Together with his brother, he owned and leased 970 acres of farmland of which one-third is in cotton and the rest with wheat, barley and alfalfa. He served as the Director of Ranchers Cotton Oil and spearheaded the formation of West Valley Cotton Growers Gin where he also served as President.

In addition to farming, Mr. McKean dedicated his attention to the water industry in his community. He served as the Division IV Director for the Kings River Conservation District from 1972–1995. Mr. McKean's term in the KRCO comprises many accomplishments including the formation of the Mid-Valley Water Authority, which he has chaired since 1982. George has given a significant consideration to water as he recognizes the need for a supplemental water supply for deficit areas such as his community. Mr. McKean was a strong advocate for the alleviation of chronic groundwater overdraft conditions in his region. He was a past chairman of the Kings River Conservation District and was a member of the Fresno County Water Advisory Committee.

Mr. McKean was an active proponent for water and farming but he has also served his country and his hometown of Riverdale in other significant ways. During World War II, he

joined the U.S. Coast Guard where he served his country from 1942 to 1945. He served local organizations such as Rodeo Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer Fire Department, Public Utility District, and Elementary School Board of Trustees. For his outstanding efforts, the Riverdale Chamber of Commerce chose him as the Man of the Year in 1979. Furthermore, he served as the Director of Caruthers' Bank and as a Financial Chairman for Congressman Bernice Sisk.

Mr. McKean was preceded in death by Myrtle, his wife of 65 years; and his brother Archie. He is survived by his brother, Charles; his daughter Carol Copley and her husband Ron; his son George D. McKean II and his wife Linda; his daughter Debbie Ella and her husband Craig; his son Mark McKean and his wife Megan. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

George McKean devoted his life to his country, community and family where his dedication and love was unwavering. His zeal and commitment to advance his community will be missed, as well as an inspiration for us all. His life and his accomplishments will always be remembered.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, next month marks the first anniversary of the London mass transit bombings. On July 7 and, subsequently, July 21, Americans watched in shock as terrorists struck at the heart of our ally's mass transit and bus systems, killing 56 people and injuring more than 700 others. The July 7 attack started at the heart of rush hour, with three bombs exploding at 8:50 a.m. on London's Underground subway system. Less than an hour later at 9:47 a.m., as London's subway system was completely shut down, an explosion tore through the back of the number 30 Hackney to Marble Arch bus. The victims of these attacks were ordinary people, not that different from many Americans, who were going about their usual routine of commuting to work, school, or tourist sites.

After the bombings, Congress called on the Administration to move quickly to reinforce our Nation's rail and mass transit systems to prevent such an attack from happening on American soil. Yet, nearly a year later, the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) have failed to produce a comprehensive strategy to secure America's rail and mass transit systems. In addition, the Department and TSA continue to focus almost exclusively on aviation security, spending \$9 per air passenger, as compared to only one penny per rail/mass transit security passenger.

The Department has made excuses for this failure by stating that mass transit security is a shared responsibility between Federal, State, and local partners, and that the Federal Government has provided significant support

for the past three years. This "partnership," however, has long left state and local governments paying the check without really knowing what they are paying for and why.

The Department's failures extend beyond its ability to get along with state and local Governments. The Department has not actively engaged the private sector and frontline employees of the rail and mass transit systems. These men and women are the eyes and ears of these systems, yet the Administration has not adequately consulted with them on its initiatives. Nor has the Administration ensured that they are trained to respond to a terrorist event.

Finally, the Federal Government has not moved forward with critical plans to secure our Nation's rail and mass transits. Instead, the Administration continues to approach the problem with piecemeal solutions instead of developing an overarching strategy that could be used to guide initiatives. Similarly, the Administration also has failed to devote significant resources and manpower to rail and mass transit research and development (R&D). Technology will play an important role in deterring and preventing future chemical, biological, or chemical attacks.

The Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2006 will make our Country more secure by mandating that the Department of Homeland Security take concrete and decisive steps to secure our Nation's rail and public transportation systems. This bill requires a National Rail and Public Transportation Security Plan which will supplement the existing National Strategy for Transportation Security. This plan will (1) clarify roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, and local agencies in securing rail and public transportation systems; (2) strengthen intelligence sharing; (3) lay out plans for public outreach and education initiatives; (4) create a framework for resuming operations in the event of an attack; (5) include a strategy and timeline for research and development of new security technologies; and (6) describe lessons learned from past attacks.

The bill also requires the creation of Area Rail and Public Transportation Security Plans. Modeled after the Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans required under current law for regions with several ports, these area plans will strengthen security planning in regions where there are more than one rail or public transportation entity, such as in the New York-New Jersey area.

Furthermore, the bill requires Rail and Public Transportation Systems to submit vulnerability assessments and security plans to the Department for approval. Modeled after the vulnerability assessments and security plans that ports already have to submit under current law, these provisions will ensure that rail and public transportation systems adequately evaluate their risks and vulnerabilities and are taking steps to address any security weaknesses. The Secretary must approve or disapprove each vulnerability assessment and security plan. Vulnerability assessments and security plans must be reviewed and updated at least every five years.

These plans will be useless unless enforced. For that reason, this bill gives the Secretary the authority to issue administrative and civil penalties for violations and to seek criminal penalties for knowing and intentional violations.

Information and intelligence sharing must also be improved. This bill will fix the current problems by requiring the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to issue a Rail and Public Transportation Strategic Information Sharing Plan to strengthen the intelligence updates provided to rail and public transportation systems.

Another critical component to this bill is its provisions improving training and exercises. If an attack does occur in the United States, proper training and exercises could make the difference between life and death for front-line workers, first responders, and passengers. This bill requires rail and public transportation systems to train their employees on how to prevent, prepare for, and respond to a terrorist attack. It also establishes a Rail and Public Transportation Security Exercise Program to test the preparedness of rail and public transportation systems for a terrorist attack.

It will cost substantial sums to implement the security measures needed to prevent a possible attack on U.S. rail and public transportation systems. This bill authorizes \$400 million per year over the next 6 years for a grant program dedicated to rail and public transportation security. In addition, this bill authorizes \$150 million over the next 3 years for advanced research and development that will find solutions to the security threats faced by rail and public transportation systems. Finally, the bill authorizes \$26.4 million per year over the next 6 years to hire 200 new rail security inspectors per year. There are only 100 rail security inspectors at the present time.

The security gap remaining in rail and public transportation is still a major threat to our Nation. The Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2006 will take substantial steps to close that security gap. I hope this Congress moves quickly to pass this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG TANNER

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man and a moment in history. The U.S. Congress has been blessed by the vision and the faith of the Reverend Douglas Tanner, and we have been deeply moved by his invocation today.

Mr. Speaker, it takes wisdom to lead the leaders of men. It takes faith to hear the voice of the spirit through the rush and tumble of the U.S. Congress. But the Bible says that "many are called, but few are chosen."

God knew that the humility and the faith of Rev. Doug Tanner would serve as a powerful witness among us. As the founder and leader of the Faith and Politics Institute, he has led us on a moral mission. He has led us on a journey of the soul through meditation and prayer. He has led us through the pilgrimages through Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia. He has helped to remind us that our faith is the key to all that we can accomplish here.

Mr. Speaker, when historians pick up their pens and write the story of this Congress in the latter part of the 20th century and the first part of the 21st century, they will have to say that one man, who was not chosen by men,

but was chosen by God, led Democrats and Republicans, Members of the House and the Senate to understand that the way of peace, the way of love, the way of non-violence is the more excellent way.

Doug, we are deeply indebted to you for all that you have done to help build Beloved Community. We are deeply grateful for your vision, for your courage and your faith.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST KEVIN DOWNS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, what does it mean to be a hero today? We each have our own ideas about what act of bravery earns a man or woman that very special privilege—the honor to be called a hero, to be saluted by friends and neighbors and strangers alike for doing something extraordinary that, at that moment in time, just seemed like the right thing to do.

Today, I am honored to stand before you here, on the floor of the House of the Representatives, to tell you and all of America about someone I consider a true hero. This young man has inspired me and so many others around the world who have heard his story of courage and patriotism.

On August 13th, 2005, Specialist Kevin Downs of Kingston Springs, Tennessee was traveling in a Humvee near the city of Tuz in northeastern Iraq with three other members of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Humvee was struck by four explosive devices. Kevin was blown 60 feet. He lost both legs, his arm was broken, he was severely burned over 60 percent of his body, including burns to his eyes, throat and lungs. He was 20 years old and had been in Iraq eight months.

Specialist Downs was the only survivor of the IED attack that day. His three friends, crewmates and fellow Tennesseans were killed that day: 22-year-old Gary Lee Reese of Ashland City, 35-year-old Staff Sgt. Asbury "Fred" Hawn, Jr of Lebanon and 30-year-old Shannon D. Taylor of Smithville.

Specialist Downs was first evacuated to a hospital in Germany where his injuries were stabilized. As his father Joe told friends and reporters at the time: "The young man is fighting and battling, and he's going to make it." Joe and Catherine Downs remained at his bedside during his time in the ICU in Germany.

As soon as possible, Kevin was transferred to a burn unit at the Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. But the challenges were far from over. Since his injuries almost one year ago, Kevin has endured more surgeries than his family can even count—two in the last ten days. He is able to get around using a wheelchair today, his father reports. And he is learning to maneuver using his prosthesis. His father adds that any time he and Catherine fall into the habit of saying they'll do something for him, Kevin politely but firmly refuses saying, no, he wants to do it for himself.

Kevin's determination and positive outlook have touched the hearts of so many. Thanks to local news coverage of his challenges,

Kevin has received thousands of letters of support from folks around the world. His resolve and bravery as he faces the latest surgeries and treatment have made him a true hero to all of us in Tennessee.

We had all hoped Kevin would be able to join us this July 4th for the annual Independence Day Parade in Pegram. He's doing great, his family reports, but it looks like his treatment is going to keep him in Texas just a little longer. But Kevin is going to be the Grand Marshall of the parade anyway. His parents will be there in his place on the 4th—and we all look forward to the day when we get to welcome Kevin back home to Tennessee and have the chance to thank him personally for his service to our country and congratulate him on his recent promotion to sergeant.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY AND VIRGINIA GREENWOOD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Jerry and Virginia Greenwood.

In April of 1954, Jerry Greenwood of Blue Mountain, and Virginia Hicks of Oxford met while working together at the Anniston Playland Skating Rink. Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood married 2 years later, on June 30, 1956. They lived and worked in Oxford, and moved to Blue Mountain where Jerry worked for the City of Anniston Parks and Recreation Department.

The couple relocated to Saks and raised their two sons, Rodney and Ryan. Mr. Greenwood was involved in the Saks Youth baseball program and coached and sponsored several of his sons' teams. Mr. Greenwood retired from the City of Anniston and opened Greenwood Auto Sales, while Mrs. Greenwood retired from Blue Mountain Industries.

Today, the couple attends Saks Baptist Church, where Mr. Greenwood once served as the bi-vocational music director. They are proud grandparents of Chase, Cameron, Caylor, Carmyn and Cassidy Greenwood.

I salute this lovely couple on the 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE VADALA

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mike Vadala as the Chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 1997, Mike has been a leader in the credit union community both nationally and within my great state of New York.

For the past 9 years, Mr. Vadala has been balancing his time as a NAFCU Board Member including this past year as the Chairman of the NAFCU Board, along with his responsibilities as President/CEO of The Summit

Federal Credit Union. With over 67,000 members in northern New York, The Summit FCU has fostered many savings programs targeted to today's youth by teaching the importance of saving through targeted programs ranging from kindergarten through college. Mr. Vadala has worked hard to promote financial education programs and has armed his members with protecting themselves against identity theft.

Throughout his tenure as Chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mr. Vadala worked tirelessly to enhance the federal credit union charter by working with Congress for regulatory relief legislation for credit unions. As Chairman, he has also helped maintain NAFCU's status as a leading credit union trade association.

Mr. Vadala has proven himself to be a true gentleman. I have seen him walking the Halls of Congress many times carrying the torch for the credit union industry, and he has testified before this Congress on multiple occasions on issues important to credit unions.

Many would think that the work he does for credit unions would be enough to fill a day, but Mr. Vadala does much more. He is a dedicated family man as well. Mr. Vadala and his family have played a huge role in fundraising for the United Way in upstate New York. He was also the former Chairperson of the March of Dimes Walk America. His work with these organizations has made a huge impact on thousands of lives in New York and beyond. Also Mr. Speaker, I could not fail to mention that Mr. Vadala is one of the biggest Syracuse Orange fans I have ever had the privilege to meet; I would like to share one more "Go Orange" with Mr. Vadala as he concludes his time on the NAFCU Board.

I rise today to congratulate Mr. Mike Vadala on his fine work throughout his illustrious tenure as Chair of NAFCU. I have worked with him on issues that are important to the credit union community in the past and I am committed to continuing this relationship.

With more than 20 years experience in the credit union community, there is no doubt in my mind that our good friends at NAFCU will feel a great void once he steps down. Congratulations on your retirement from the NAFCU Board Mr. Vadala.

CONGRATULATING CURTIS SILER ON HIS LIFE SAVING ACTION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Curtis Siler of Flower Mound, Texas, who rescued a drowning girl during a day trip to a local water park.

Twelve-year-old Curtis Siler and his mother, Tanya Siler, were spending the day at Hurricane Harbor, an Arlington, Texas water-based park. While swimming in the deeper end of the wave pool, Siler noticed a young girl resting on the bottom of the pool. He realized that her eyes had rolled back in her head and she was not moving. Without hesitation, Siler dove to the bottom, grabbed the girl, and brought her to the surface. He then called for the help of a lifeguard.

Thanks to the actions of Curtis Siler, lifeguards were able to get the girl to safety and begin first aid, ultimately saving her life.

I extend my sincere congratulations to young Curtis Siler for his heroic actions and true concern for the welfare of others. I admire his bravery during such a grave situation. He is truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to represent Curtis and his family in Washington.

ARTICLE ON IMMIGRATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like bring to the attention of our colleagues in this House an opinion editorial (Baltimore Sun, May 11, 2006), written by my constituent Stephen Nordlinger, which I submit for the RECORD. Mr. Nordlinger is a former Washington correspondent for the Baltimore Sun.

Mr. Nordlinger's article highlights an issue that has received scant attention in the debate over immigration reform, namely the need to improve and streamline the process for legal immigrants to obtain a green card and eventually qualify for citizenship. Congress has never provided the funds to satisfactorily implement legislation passed in 2000 to ease the immigration process for those who entered the country legally. As a result, those who played by the rules find themselves waiting for years in a bureaucratic maze for their applications to be processed. This creates the perception that those who play by the rules get penalized. As we work to fix our broken system, we must provide the resources that are necessary to ensure that individuals like Mr. Veng Preap, who is the subject of this article, are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

[From the Baltimore Sun, May 11, 2006]

AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY

(By Stephen Nordlinger)

My wife and I first met Veng Preap on a sultry fall day when we walked into the offices of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on a busy street in the center of Siem Reap, near the Angkor Wat complex in Cambodia. We carried a letter from a friend of his in Washington and a pile of World Bank books on international development that Mr. Preap's friend suggested for him.

Veng Preap, not his real name to protect his privacy, took us everywhere to see the Angkor monuments and spent evenings speaking with us about his life and such subjects as civil engineering and Buddhism and his views toward organized religion. He showed us the large computer maps he had made as part of the effort by UNESCO to preserve the Angkor complex.

On our final day in Siem Reap, I spoke with Mr. Preap about coming to the United States. My wife and I were bowled over by his abilities, especially his rich English vocabulary, for someone who had never left Cambodia. We discussed sponsoring Mr. Preap for a year of study in his specialty, geographic information systems, a highly valued skill for producing computer-based maps. Less than a year later, he arrived at Towson University, its first Cambodian student.

He is still in this country nearly 10 years later, and his contribution to the United States has been substantial. He has seized opportunity after opportunity for public service.

His life here shows what a talented immigrant can contribute. But at the same time, his American experience is sending another clear message: how easily our government can overlook such a gifted person. It is a message that Congress should heed as it considers new immigration legislation.

Mr. Preap has been waiting on line five years and counting on government approval of the first step toward getting a green card to realize his dream of becoming a permanent resident and citizen. It is not the fault of government immigration workers. Congress never provided the funds to carry out legislation passed in 2000 that was intended to ease the immigration process for those like Mr. Preap who had entered the country legally, and there was a flood of applications.

Mr. Preap did not have to stay in this country beyond the original year we planned together. But how could such a hugely able person return to impoverished Cambodia, especially when a long-standing dispute between UNESCO and the corrupt authoritarian government had idled him for a year? The Khmer Rouge killed his mother and sister when he was 7. The current government allowed his wife's property to be stolen.

Mr. Preap considers himself an American even without the necessary documents. He relishes speaking English. While growing up in Cambodia, he pursued his desire to learn English often by studying alone and by candlelight for fear of being arrested or worse because such studies were banned. At Towson, he insisted on living in a dormitory with American students rather than in an international enclave.

Over the past few years, he has earned a second bachelor's degree in geography at Towson and a master's in computer science at Strayer University. He has volunteered for more than 6 years to teach computers to poor Americans and foreigners. He worked for the Voice of America broadcasting to Cambodia. He helped film a documentary on the tsunami disaster. And he helped prepare a giant map for the rotunda at the National Museum of American History showing the various kinds of voting machinery in the nation's election districts.

All the while, he has paid taxes on his limited income.

Mr. Preap is a skilled computer teacher. The community center where he volunteers has asked him to come two nights a week because it cannot find teachers with his ability. The Internet runs job offers for his skill in geographic information systems.

People speak in the abstract about immigration, and much of the discussion is about the need for more farm and restaurant workers. But here is an example of a hugely talented, hard-working immigrant being needlessly thwarted by our government. Mr. Preap cannot take a job and settle down because our immigration system won't let him.

Not only are we not taking full advantage of skilled talent among the immigrants, but we may be on the verge of causing more disappointments, by the millions. The huge number of immigrants who have come out of the shadows to demonstrate for the right to become citizens may find a long, long waiting line. The system is just too cumbersome and underfunded.

Unless the Bush administration and Congress provide new resources, it is all too likely that broken borders will be replaced by broken promises.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of Representative BROWN's amendment to increase funding for the International Trade Administration's Office of China Compliance (OCC) by \$3 million in FY 2007. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak, although I wish the circumstances of my appearance here were different. Simply put, full and effective enforcement of our trade laws is not just the right thing to do; it has become an absolute imperative as we see the growing challenges facing American manufacturers. Will Rogers used to say, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." Funding for the Office of China Compliance must be increased to reflect the seriousness of this issue to American workers and the economy as a whole.

I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a recent report on NPR's Marketplace that highlighted an ongoing practice by China's textile industry called "transshipment." Last year, the USTR and Chinese Commerce Minister agreed to a 3-year pact limiting China's exports of 34 textile and apparel products to the United States. We now find out that China had no intention of sticking to its end of this bargain. Not 8 months after signing the agreement, China has been warned by Indonesia for its continued manipulation of textile exports, which are sent into Indonesia, slapped with a "Made in Indonesia" label, and shipped back to China before making their way into the United States, at levels far greater than what both countries agreed upon. These garments are not sent to Indonesia for anything other than this valuable label. According to Indonesia's Minister of Industry, Chinese transshipments through Indonesia alone amounted to an estimated \$6 billion in 2005. Thus far in 2006, these illegal shipments are up 79 percent over last year. It is crucial that we stand up against these unscrupulous Chinese trade practices and invest in our efforts to monitor those who skirt international trade laws.

China continues to violate international trade laws, basic human rights, and its World Trade Organization commitments. While we watch imports from China streaming into our ports and shipping hubs, we are left with few options to defend our Nation's manufacturing industries and local jobs. However, we have trade remedies to mitigate this. It is time for the Bush administration to use the funds we are providing and enforce our trade laws. I am offended by the lack of action by this administration with the tools it has had available. We know that goods from China are coming into this country illegally, many of which were made with the help of government subsidies.

We know that those imports are hurting U.S. companies and workers. We know that China's disregard for international trade laws only encourages more companies to ship their jobs overseas. This administration must enforce our laws relative to China.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. Increased funding for the Office of China Compliance will increase our ability to monitor Chinese trade and help to stem the tide of illegal imports. American workers and firms are depending on us to consider the real impact of illegal Chinese trade: more outsourcing of American jobs and a weakened American economy. Once again, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak today, and I urge my colleagues to support this critical amendment.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Stearns amendment.

I cannot think of a more pernicious amendment that is being considered today than this amendment.

For more than 30 years, Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act has ensured that U.S. Citizens, who may require assistance to cast an educated vote in a language other than English, have the ability to vote in the language in which they are most adept.

Section 203 has proven to be a constitutional, just, and practical way to maximize voter participation and ensure our democracy truly reflects its citizens.

Every Member of this body who cares about voting rights should join me in condemning the amendment before us.

It is nothing short of a cynical attempt to disenfranchise eligible voters and to undermine core protections afforded by the Voting Rights Act.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this attempt to roll back the clock on civil rights.

Defeat the Stearns amendment.

COMMENDING AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE'S ARTICLE, "TURNING TO THE U.N., AGAIN"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues a very important op-ed by a very distinguished American diplomat, the former U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. His article, "Turning to the U.N., Again," which appeared in the Washington

Post on June 28th, provides us with a critical reminder that the UN, though a flawed institution, remains "indispensable to the United States."

Ambassador Holbrooke points out that, earlier this month, President Bush once again turned to America's great ally in New York, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, to help the Administration secure its most pressing foreign policy goal, cementing a political compact for Iraq. Kofi Annan is a great friend of the United States and a great personal friend of mine. I share Ambassador Holbrooke's confidence that the distinguished Secretary General, will use his good offices to convene a series of international meetings with the purpose of hammering out a new "Iraq Compact."

Mr. Speaker, after noting this latest instance of the United States turning again to the UN for help, Ambassador Holbrooke argues that it is critical to America's core interests to strengthen the United Nations. As he so eloquently states, it is time for the Administration to move past its internal debate about the UN, "whether to support it or abandon it, to use it or bypass it." Ambassador Holbrooke is absolutely correct that this ambivalence toward the UN has undermined our Nation's ability to lead the effort to reform the UN.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of Ambassador Holbrooke's important article be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read it carefully and thoughtfully.

[From the Washington Post, June 28, 2006]

TURNING TO THE U.N., AGAIN

(By Richard Holbrooke)

In a little-noticed announcement in President Bush's news conference on June 14, the day he returned from Iraq, he said that he would send two personal emissaries to New York to consult with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on the political and economic future of Iraq. The next day, still with remarkably little public attention, Philip Zelikow, the counselor of the State Department, and Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt met with Annan and his deputy, Mark Malloch Brown, at the secretary general's Sutton Place residence. There was no one else present.

The two presidential envoys asked Annan to use his unique "convening powers" to help organize international meetings that would lead (by this fall, the Americans hope) to the unveiling of a new "Iraq Compact"—an agreement between the Iraqi government and major international donors that would commit Baghdad to a series of political and economic reforms in return for substantially more international aid. (Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called Annan the same day to make an identical request.)

This is a good idea—and quite similar to suggestions from many administration critics. With the battle for Baghdad raging, it remains to be seen whether an Iraq Compact will work—or even get off the ground—but it is certainly an important step in the right direction for Iraq and for American policy.

For Annan and the United Nations, Bush's request poses an ironic and difficult challenge. On the one hand, the administration is asking for help on the worst problem it faces, acknowledging, however belatedly and reluctantly, that once again, the United Nations is not only relevant but at times indispensable to the United States. On the other hand, the resentment among the majority of U.N. member states over the way the institution has been treated recently, especially by Washington's current U.N. ambassador,

makes any effort to get the United Nations to help the United States far more difficult.

How to treat the United Nations has been a particular dilemma for President Bush, since opponents of the organization form an important part of the administration's core constituency. Internal disagreements over the past five years about whether to support it or abandon it, to use it or bypass it, have both weakened the organization and led to reduced U.S. influence even as more and more intractable issues are thrown into its hands.

The United Nations is facing major budgetary problems caused primarily by American insistence on a six-month budget cycle instead of the normal two-year cycle. It must deal with growing shortfalls in the U.S. contribution to peacekeeping funding, despite Washington's calls for more peacekeepers in Darfur and elsewhere. And it is confronted by a deadlock over rebuilding the headquarters complex in New York—a deadlock whose main cause is the administration's failure to push Congress for proper funding. (This is particularly difficult to understand, since the U.N. signature building, its 38-story East River office tower—built in 1950 and never subject to modern safety codes—is widely acknowledged to be the major building in New York most vulnerable to a terrorist attack. For example, when the president visits it, the Secret Service closes down FDR Drive beneath it—but what about the rest of the time?)

Still, even though Annan and the world body have been diminished by Washington, he and his colleagues simply cannot refuse to help on the Iraq matter; it is their responsibility as international civil servants to go where the problems are worst and then to do their best. And, on the basis of private talks with Annan, Malloch Brown and administration officials, I have no doubt that they intend to do just that. In fact, Malloch Brown has already agreed to travel to Baghdad very soon for preliminary meetings that the United Nations and the United States hope will culminate later this year in a high-level conference in the region. As Annan moves into his last six months as secretary general, this would be the right way to end a turbulent decade in that office—with a genuine contribution to the cause of peace in Iraq.

It is, however, impossible not to note the irony and the implications of what has happened in the past two weeks between Washington and the United Nations. Once again, an administration that has underfunded, undersupported and undermined the United Nations has turned to it, almost in desperation, for help.

The lesson should be clear: Despite the enormously self-destructive actions of many other member states, especially the group of developing nations called the G-77, the United Nations still serves U.S. foreign policy interests in many important ways. Not only Iraq but also Iran, Darfur, Afghanistan and the difficult negotiations just started over Kosovo's final status—all issues of vital importance to the United States—have now ended up in the United Nations. To weaken this institution further, as has happened in recent years, serves no clear American national security interest. To strengthen it would make it more valuable to the United States and to every nation that seeks conflict resolution, stability and economic progress. With the maneuvering over the selection of Annan's successor underway, it is time for Washington—and this must include Congress—to put behind it a sorry period of confusion and offer the United Nations more support, both financial and political, in return for the things it needs in Iraq and elsewhere.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL LARRY D. RUGGLEY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very distinguished military leader who is retiring after 34 years of service to this country. I rise today to congratulate Colonel Larry D. Ruggley on his retirement, thank him for his dedication to our country and acknowledge the important leadership role he has played in the United States Army.

A little more than 3 years ago, Colonel Ruggley assumed command of the United States Army Garrison at Fort Campbell, a portion of which I am proud to represent in the Congress. Colonel Ruggley and I have worked closely together on numerous occasions during his service at Fort Campbell, and I am very appreciative of his understanding of the mission of the Army, its role in protecting our country and the needs of each man and woman who wears the uniform of the United States Army. Colonel Ruggley's contributions have been immensely valuable.

Colonel Ruggley's long and impressive career began in 1971 when he was an enlisted soldier in the Army Security Agency. He graduated as the Distinguished Military Graduate from Ohio University and was commissioned in 1978 as an Infantry Officer, then served his first assignment at Berlin Brigade, Germany. He went on to complete numerous other leadership assignments: 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne); 7th Infantry Division (Light); 1st Special Warfare Training Group and D Company, 1st Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Special Operations Command Europe, Bosnia; and 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

His unit participated in the African Crisis Response Initiative in Malawi and Uganda and other missions in Africa. After command, he became the Deputy Director of Training and Doctrine and then Chief of Staff of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School until 2000. After completing the Army War College, Colonel Ruggley was assigned to the Army Special Operations Command as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel from 2001–2003, after which he became Garrison Commander at Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne Division. During his 3-year tenure he oversaw superb support during a tumultuous time for the 101st Airborne Division as they redeployed from war, transformed and redeployed to Iraq last year.

Colonel Ruggley's many awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/4OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal w/1OLC, Army Commendation Medal w/1OLC, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal 3/OLC, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal 1/OLC, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and NATO Medal. He also has been awarded the Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab, is a Master Parachutist, HALO Parachutist, and holds the Expert Infantryman Badge. He completed a Masters Degree in Administration from Central Michigan Univer-

sity and received a Masters Degree in Military Studies while attending the War College.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Ruggley will now retire from his service in the United States Army, and Colonel Frederick W. Swope will assume the responsibility of Garrison Commander. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in welcoming Colonel Swope to his new post and recognizing the accomplished and distinguished service of Colonel Larry Ruggley, an outstanding military hero, a proven American patriot and my friend. We thank him for all he has done for his country and wish him, his wife Marie and their four children, all the best as Colonel Ruggley enters this new phase of his life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM M. "GOLDIE" AND MARY GOLDFEIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Goldie" and Mary Goldfein, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22, 2006.

Goldie and Mary met in Japan in 1955. Goldie was assigned as a new officer and fighter pilot, and Mary worked as a school teacher for the Department of Defense. After their marriage in 1956, the Goldfeins had three boys, all of whom currently serve in the United States Air Force: Steve, a Major General, Dave, a selectee for Brigadier General, and Mike, a Lieutenant Colonel. They also enjoy six grandchildren, Alex, a Lieutenant in the Air Force, Travis, a senior in college, Dani, who is entering college in the fall, Diana, who is 16, Scott, who is 12, and Hannah, who is 10. All of Goldie and Mary's sons and one of their grandsons have graduated from the United States Air Force Academy.

Goldie, his sons, and grandson have accumulated over 100 years of military service and that number continues to grow. Mary has dedicated thousands of hours of service on numerous Air Force Bases. The most notable in their 20 years of service was serving as the Nanoscience and Technology and the Combined Federal campaign director.

The Goldfeins retired from the United States Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize William and Mary Goldfein on the floor of the House. I commend them for their contributions to the United States Air Force, Southern Nevada community, and especially the airmen stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey amendment.

I acknowledge that this is a controversial issue, and it has been a difficult decision for me. While scientific evidence is inconclusive and the medical community has yet to speak with one voice as to whether there is a unique, therapeutic benefit to inhaled marijuana, some studies suggest that marijuana can relieve pain, nausea, and appetite loss. I have heard from many patients, suffering from some of life's most challenging conditions, who have informed me that the therapeutic value of inhaled marijuana is unmatched. I have always supported further study of medical marijuana because of the potential to ease the suffering of the many Americans dealing with chronic illness and disease.

While I have not supported amendments similar to this one in the past, the issue is different for me this year, as the Representative from the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island. Since we last debated this issue in June 2005, the state legislature of Rhode Island has passed—and the state Department of Health has implemented—a law allowing for legal access to medical marijuana. Under this law, the state established a registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients or caregivers who register with the state. These patients, who suffer from an approved list of conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, must provide certification from a Rhode Island physician. Once approved in the registry, the patient or a designated caregiver is permitted to possess up to a certain amount of cultivated marijuana and to grow up to 12 marijuana plants. The statewide discussion over the issue made clear that my constituents overwhelmingly support regulated access to marijuana for medical purposes; and the state legislature responded with overwhelming support by overriding a governor's veto with significantly more than the necessary 2/3 support in each chamber. I am aware that I now represent some constituents who are using medical marijuana, in compliance with state laws. I am also aware that under federal law, these Rhode Island patients run the risk of being arrested and prosecuted for federal drug offenses—and this troubles me greatly.

My vote for the Hinchey amendment should not be interpreted as an unconditional endorsement of medical marijuana. I do believe the therapy deserves further clinical trials and scientific scrutiny. As we move forward with these policy discussions, we must bear in mind that marijuana is a narcotic and therapeutic usage must be carefully controlled. However, I rise today in support of the Hinchey amendment because I do not want my constituents, or those of the ten other states that have passed similar laws, to live in fear of arrest when they are complying with state law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Hinchey amendment, as well as the further study of the therapeutic value of medical marijuana.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY to H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

The amendment in question would increase the funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program by \$50 million which would bring the committee's total mark for the program to \$608 million. I strongly believe passage of this amendment is critical. The Edward Byrne Justice Grant Program provides States and local units of government the necessary flexibility in creating programs to address local needs when it comes to crime prevention and enforcement.

A prime example of how this funding can lead to great success in a community happened just yesterday back in my home district. In LaSalle County, Illinois, a anti-drug task force was established to address the growing problem of drug use in many of their communities.

Yesterday, this anti-drug task force arrested the brother of the head of the Chicago-based gang called Gangsters Disciples for dealing heroin and cocaine in the county. The apprehension of this dangerous criminal will further reduce the heroin and cocaine flowing into LaSalle County.

The reason this arrest was such a great success story of the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program is that the task force is funded almost entirely by Byrne grant funding. The success story in LaSalle County, Illinois, is one of many from the Byrne grant program.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman FRANK WOLF for providing a \$142 million increase from last year's funding level for our local police forces. I also want to thank Congressman KENNEDY for offering this critical amendment that will provide our local law enforcement officers with a larger pool of funding to further protect our communities. I urge all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support its passage.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, June 28, 2006, I voted in favor of the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 5672, the FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act.

Eleven states have passed laws to allow the use of medical marijuana. This amendment would prohibit federal funds from being used to prevent the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, or Washington from implementing state laws authorizing a physician to prescribe the use of medical marijuana for their patients in those states. I voted for this amendment because I do not believe that the federal government should be preempting state medical laws approved by either the state legislature or voter referendum.

I served as Johnson County District Attorney for 12 years. I do not believe in the legalization of drugs. But this amendment has to do with compassion for people who are suffering from horrible pain or may be dying, and the ability of doctors in states in which those people live to provide means by which their suffering can be relieved.

Medical marijuana may alleviate suffering from debilitating diseases such as AIDS, cancer, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis. Some contend it has no medicinal value whatsoever. Regardless of one's opinions within this debate, the federal government should not be spending our limited funding for law enforcement to target American citizens in states where the voters or the legislature have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana. To be clear, this amendment would do nothing to legalize marijuana use for any purpose in states, such as Kansas, where voters or the legislature have not approved measures to allow marijuana for medical use.

Under the provisions of this amendment, patients in states that have enacted laws to allow the use of medical marijuana would be prescribed the medication under the direction and careful supervision of their physician. Patients would not be permitted to use this medication for any other purpose.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MASSEY PALMER BEDSOLE, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Born in Mobile on July 21, 1928, Massey Palmer Bedsole, Jr., graduated from University Military School and then Virginia Military Institute. Upon graduation from V.M.I., Palmer served 2 years as an infantry officer, 1 year as an intelligence officer and later, in Korea, during the Korean War.

As a native of Mobile, Palmer was known by many as a champion of the arts, civic leader and philanthropist.

For many years, he was the chairman of the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, which focuses primarily on civic projects. Among other things,

the foundation funds a scholarship program that provides assistance for area students from southwest Alabama to go to college, and also runs the MLK Avenue Redevelopment Corporation, which assists housing construction in lower income neighborhoods in and around Mobile.

In addition to these programs, the foundation also supports the Centre for the Living Arts, which was founded by Palmer and his lovely wife, Ann.

Palmer Bedsole was awarded the 2004 Outstanding Citizen Award of Mobile because of his creation and involvement with the Centre for the Living Arts. This center operates Space 301, an art gallery in the former Mobile Press-Register building, as well as the historic Saenger Theater. Palmer was a driving force behind the renovations of this Mobile landmark.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a successful businessman, a respected farmer and true friend to many throughout Alabama and around the country.

At 6 feet 6 inches, Palmer Bedsole was not only a tall man, but he was big in heart and generous in spirit. Naturally, he will be missed by his family—his wife of 48 years, Ann Smith Bedsole; his children, Raine Bedsole, George Demmas, Mary Martin Riser and John Henry Martin; and his grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING HARRISON WADSWORTH ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Harrison Wadsworth for his service this summer during his internship in our Nation's Capital. Harrison has been a tremendous help to my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

As he finishes his internship, Harrison is preparing for his junior year at Johns Hopkins University, where he is majoring in political science. He is a member of Sigma Chi, and his dedication to his studies has earned him a spot on the Dean's List.

I know firsthand that Harrison comes from good stock. His father worked in my Washington, DC office for many years, and his sister has also interned here. Given the fine character of his family, I expected good things from Harrison and I was not disappointed.

Harrison's remarkable attitude and eagerness have been great assets during his time here. He has been very helpful in answering constituent concerns, guiding visitors from Middle Tennessee through the U.S. Capitol and assisting me and my staff with countless projects. His creative approach to problem solving has served him well.

I hope Harrison has enjoyed this learning experience as much as we have enjoyed having him in the office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK JAGET

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Jaget, who recently competed in the Gobi March, a 7-day, 150-mile footrace across China's Gobi Desert.

Mark is a 39-year-old chiropractor, who, with his brother David, owns three Spinal Rehabilitation Centers in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On June 3, 2006, after completing the six-stage, 7-day footrace across one of the harshest landscapes and climates on Earth, Mark crossed the finish line in a small, remote village in the Xinjiang Province of China. Mark finished the race an impressive 9th overall, with a time of 32 hours and 56 minutes.

This was Mark's first race, and he trained for 9 months in order to prepare for his amazing performance in this self-sustaining test, where the competitors have to carry their own food and supplies. Although participants were provided with a tent, water, and dehydrated meals, this served as little consolation in the extreme heat and rugged terrain.

Mark's motivation to finish the race came by focusing on thoughts of his wife, Clare, and their children, Sebastian, who is 7, and Tristan, who is 5, with whom he had imaginary conversations during the contest to keep his spirits high.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Jaget on the floor of the House. I commend him for his overwhelming determination and appreciate his representation of our country and the State of Nevada in the Gobi March.

COMMENDING LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL I. PARKER, RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR, ON HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR NATION THROUGH HIS VALIANT HEROISM DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel I. Parker of North Carolina's 8th district. Lieutenant Colonel Parker was one of only two soldiers from North Carolina to receive the Medal of Honor for his "valiant heroism" during the First World War.

Born on October 17, 1891 in Monroe, North Carolina, Samuel Parker entered the United States Army at a young age. When the United States entered World War I, Samuel Parker, like so many of his generation, chose to put his own interests aside and lay his life on the line to serve his country.

As his citation dutifully notes, on July 18, 1918, then-Second Lieutenant Parker found himself near Soissons, France. During the attack on Soissons, two infantry battalions were merged and established a frontline position. In so doing, a gap was left between the right flank of the French 153D Division and the left flank of the 28th Infantry, exposing the left

flank to enemy machine-gunfire in a rock quarry on high ground. Second Lieutenant Parker ordered his depleted platoon to follow him in an attack upon the strong point. Meeting a disorganized group of French Colonials, he persuaded them to join his platoon. They followed him through enemy fire to the crest of the hill, and rushing forward, took the quarry, capturing six machineguns and 40 prisoners. The next day when the assault continued, Second Lieutenant Parker was in command of the merged battalions. Although wounded in the foot, he refused to evacuate and continued to lead his command until the objective was reached. Seeing that the assault battalion was subjected to heavy enfilade fire due to a gap between it and the French on its left, he led his battalion through heavy fire and closed the gap, remaining in command until the newly established lines were thoroughly consolidated. In supervising this, Lieutenant Parker had to crawl on his hands and knees on account of his painful wound.

As the British statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." That day good men like Lieutenant Parker did something, and evil did not triumph, but rather our freedom was ensured.

Unlike many of his comrades, Second Lieutenant Parker survived to receive his Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross and went on to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He passed away on December 1, 1975 at the age of 84. It is our duty to remember the service and sacrifice of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel L. Parker and that of all our veterans.

Our veterans are the heroes who helped define our American heritage, and are living proof that freedom is never free. The memory of those we lost and the sacrifice of those who lived to tell the tale must be held in high esteem by Congress and a nation that extends our veterans its utmost respect and gratitude. As we approach the fourth of July, the anniversary of our independence, we must never forget the service of our veterans and pay tribute to those who have gone before us. Now more than ever, we must come together as a nation to unite and rally around those who continue to fight for our freedom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIAN CHRISTENSEN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Brian Christensen of Littleton, CO, on his victory in the NCAA Archery Recurve finals.

Mr. Christensen is a one-man team from Colorado State University, he is self-coached and his achievements are noteworthy. He has further ambitions to compete in the 2008 Summer Olympics. He has also been named Colorado Archer of the Year. Previously he has won the World Archery Festival in 2002 and 2003. Archery requires intense concentration and therefore he has used his discipline in the academic realm as well; currently he is using this in his goal of graduating with a degree in Sports Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Christensen and his achievements here today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

THE CASE OF VALERIU PASAT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, following the collapse of the Soviet Union when there were virtual open-air arms bazaars taking place across the territory of the former USSR, the United States Government purchased twenty-one fighter aircraft from the newly independent Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan official who negotiated this sale was then Defense Minister, Valeriu Pasat. This purchase was intended to keep these aircraft out of the hands of potentially hostile regimes.

Just last year, Mr. Pasat was charged with malfeasance in connection with this transaction that occurred nearly a decade ago. Allegedly, the planes were worth more than the Moldovan Government received for them in the deal approved by Chisinau. In January of this year, Mr. Pasat was convicted by a secret tribunal and received a 10-year labor camp sentence. His sentence is now awaiting appeal. Mr. Pasat maintains that the charges against him are political and linked to his work with those who oppose Moldova's current communist government. To further complicate matters, he is reportedly in poor health and is rumored to be suffering from hepatitis—a potentially life-threatening condition. Last month, a team of Ukrainian doctors was reportedly denied permission to examine him.

In response to the Pasat verdict, the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau issued a statement expressing disappointment and regret over the non-transparent manner in which his trial was conducted, as well as the judge's refusal to admit sworn statements from former U.S. officials directly involved in the matter. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the European Union recently passed a resolution calling upon the Moldovan authorities to "ensure that the appeals process [in the Pasat case] will be allowed to proceed in a transparent fashion in accordance with international legal norms." While I make no presumption of Mr. Pasat's innocence or guilt, I share the concerns voiced by our Embassy and by the EU.

As Vice Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am well aware of the difficulties Moldova has experienced on its path to democracy. I would also like to note the positive progress Moldova has made toward shedding its Soviet legacy and integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. This is why I am so troubled by the retrograde manner in which the Pasat trial has been conducted. It is critical that the Moldovan judicial system afford its citizens the basic legal protections common throughout the civilized world, such as due process, procedural transparency, and hearing the testimony of relevant witnesses. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, it is especially and urgent that the Moldovan authorities take all the necessary steps to protect the life and health of Mr. Pasat or any other prisoner of the state.

"POWER GRAB," BY ELIZABETH DREW

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, which had been closed to the public, a citizen asked: "What kind of Government have you given us, Mr. Franklin?" Franklin replied, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it."

In last week's New York Review of Books, Elizabeth Drew, one of our most distinguished political analysts, discusses President Bush's "Power Grab." She forcefully reminds us that, to paraphrase Franklin, the Constitution gives Congress power co-equal with the President, but only if Congress can keep it.

Drew illustrates in painful but accurate detail how Congress repeatedly has stood by and allowed Bush to erode our constitutional powers, one bit at a time.

Drew's particular focus is on President Bush's drastically expanded use of so-called "signing statements," in which he asserts a statute's version he plans to follow, his own version. President Bush tries to claim the power to "make all laws," as well as his constitutionally assigned role to ensure the "laws be faithfully executed." He did not originate the practice, but his use of it is unprecedented in frequency, scope, and defiance of clear legislative intent. This is not a partisan issue. When President Bush reluctantly signed the recent statute banning torture, but then insisted that he would authorize non-existent exceptions, members of both parties disputed the practice.

As Drew explains, Bush's claim of "inherent authority" to ignore the law knows no bounds, no time frame or limiting principle. The genius of our system of government is its separation of powers and its structure of checks and balances. That structure is at risk today.

I urge my colleagues to ponder Elizabeth Drew's timely warning.

[From the New York Review of Books, June 22, 2006]

POWER GRAB

(By Elizabeth Drew)

During the presidency of George W. Bush, the White House has made an unprecedented reach for power. It has systematically attempted to defy, control, or threaten the institutions that could challenge it: Congress, the courts, and the press. It has attempted to upset the balance of power among the three branches of government provided for in the Constitution; but its most aggressive and consistent assaults have been against the legislative branch: Bush has time and again said that he feels free to carry out a law as he sees fit, not as Congress wrote it. Through secrecy and contemptuous treatment of Congress, the Bush White House has made the executive branch less accountable than at any time in modern American history. And because of the complaisance of Congress, it has largely succeeded in its efforts.

This power grab has received little attention because it has been carried out largely in obscurity. The press took little notice until Bush, on January 5 of this year, after signing a bill containing the McCain amendment, which placed prohibitions on torture, quietly filed a separate pronouncement, a "signing statement," that he would inter-

pret the bill as he wished. In fact Bush had been issuing such signing statements since the outset of his administration. The Constitution distinguishes between the power of the Congress and that of the president by stating that Congress shall "make all laws" and the president shall "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Bush claims the power to execute the laws as he interprets them, ignoring congressional intent.

Grover Norquist, a principal organizer of the conservative movement who is close to the Bush White House and usually supports its policies, says, "If you interpret the Constitution's saying that the president is commander in chief to mean that the president can do anything he wants and can ignore the laws you don't have a constitution: you have a king." He adds, "They're not trying to change the law; they're saying that they're above the law and in the case of the NSA wiretaps they break it." A few members of Congress recognize the implications of what Bush is doing and are willing to speak openly about it. Dianne Feinstein, Democratic senator from California, talks of a "very broad effort" being made "to increase the power of the executive." Chuck Hagel, Republican senator from Nebraska, says: "There's a very clear pattern of aggressively asserting executive power, and the Congress has essentially been complicit in letting him do it. The key is that Bush has a Republican Congress; of course if it was a Clinton presidency we'd be holding hearings."

The public scenes of the President surrounded by smiling legislators whom he praises for their wonderful work as he hands out the pens he has used to sign the bill are often utterly misleading. The elected officials aren't informed at that time of the President's real intentions concerning the law. After they leave, the President's signing statements—which he does not issue verbally at the time of signing—are placed in the Federal Register, a compendium of U.S. laws, which members of Congress rarely read. And they are often so technical, referring as they do to this subsection and that statute, that they are difficult to understand.

For five years, Bush has been issuing a series of signing statements which amount to a systematic attempt to take power from the legislative branch. Though Ronald Reagan started issuing signing statements to set forth his own position on a piece of legislation, he did it essentially to guide possible court rulings, and he only occasionally objected to a particular provision of a bill. Though subsequent presidents also issued such statements, they came nowhere near to making the extraordinary claims that Bush has; nor did they make such statements nearly so often.

According to an article in The Boston Globe, Bush has claimed the right to ignore more than 750 laws enacted since he became president. He has unilaterally overruled Congress on a broad range of matters, refusing, for example, to accept a requirement for more diversity in awarding government science scholarships. He has overruled numerous provisions of congressional appropriations bills that he felt impinged on his executive power. He has also overruled Congress's requirement that he report back to it on how he has implemented a number of laws. Moreover, he has refused to enforce laws protecting whistle-blowers and providing safeguards against political interference in federally funded research. Bush has also used signing statements to place severe limits on the inspectors general created by Congress to oversee federal activities, including two officials who were supposed to inspect and report to Congress on the US occupation of Iraq.

The President could of course veto a bill he doesn't like and publicly argue his objections to it. He would then run the risk that Congress would override his veto. Instead, Bush has chosen a method that is largely hidden and is difficult to challenge. As of this writing, Bush has never vetoed a bill (though he has threatened to do so in the case of a spending bill now pending in Congress). Some of the bills Bush has decided to sign and then ignore or subvert were passed over his objections; others were the result of compromises between Congress and the White House. Arlen Specter, the Republican senator from Pennsylvania and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told me, "Under the Constitution if the president doesn't like a bill he vetoes it. You don't cherry-pick the legislation."

Bush has cited two grounds for flouting the will of Congress, or of unilaterally expanding presidential powers. One is the claim of the "inherent" power of the commander in chief.

Second is a heretofore obscure doctrine called the unitary executive, which gives the president power over Congress and the courts. The concept of a unitary executive holds that the executive branch can overrule the courts and Congress on the basis of the president's own interpretations of the Constitution, in effect overturning *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), which established the principle of judicial review, and the constitutional concept of checks and balances.

The term "unitary government" has two different meanings: one simply refers to the president's control of the executive branch, including the supposedly independent regulatory agencies such as the SEC and the FDA. The other, much broader concept, which is used by Bush, gives the executive power superior to that of Congress and the courts. Previous presidents have asserted the right not to carry out parts of a bill, arguing that it impinged on their constitutional authority; but they were specific both in their objections and in the ways they proposed to execute the law. Clinton, for example, objected to provisions in a bill establishing a semi-autonomous National Nuclear Security Administration, which set out the reasons for removing the director. Clinton objected that that impinged on his presidential prerogatives. Bush asserts broad powers without being specific in his objections or saying how he plans to implement the law. His interpretations of the law, as in his "signing statement" on the McCain amendment, often construe the bill to mean something different from—and at times almost the opposite of—what everyone knows it means.

The concept of the unitary executive, which has been put forward in conservative circles for several years, has been advocated mainly by the Federalist Society, a group of conservative lawyers who also campaign for the nomination of conservative judges. The idea was seriously considered in the Reagan administration's Justice Department. One of its major supporters was Samuel Alito, then a lawyer in the Justice Department. In his confirmation hearing, Alito said that the memorandum he wrote saying that the president's interpretation of a bill "should be just as important as that of Congress" was "theoretical." But no president until Bush explicitly claimed that the concept of a unitary executive was a basis for overruling a bill.

The theory was formulated by John Yoo, a mid-level but highly influential attorney in the Justice Department between 2001 and 2003, who took the view that the president had the power to do pretty much whatever he wanted to do. (He also wrote the infamous memorandum defending what amounted to torture.) As White House counsel, Alberto Gonzales, now attorney general, also publicly supported the theory of the unitary executive.

The theory rests on the Oath of Office, in which, according to the Constitution, the newly elected president promises to "faithfully execute the office of President," and also on the section of Article II that states that the president "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." The administration has put forward unprecedented interpretations of both clauses, claiming that they give the president independent authority, unchecked by the other branches of government, to decide what the law means. This theory overlooks the fact that the framers were particularly wary of executive power. A number of constitutional scholars I have spoken with describe the administration's theory of the unitary executive as no more than a convenient fig leaf for enlarging presidential power.

Bush's claims of extraordinary power as commander in chief have been mainly invoked since September 11, 2001. He was able to exploit the anxieties the attacks had stirred, causing people to look to the President to defend them. Senator Jack Reed, Democrat of Rhode Island, recalled that everyone "looked to the presidency, not to the 535 senators and congressmen, to protect them from a further crippling attack and suspended their mistrust of government. So they [the administration] took great power, which has to be handled wisely, but they didn't."

It is under the authority of his powers as commander in chief that Bush asserted the right to keep nearly five hundred "enemy combatants" in detention in Guantanamo, of whom only ten were charged with a crime. Most were handed over by Afghan bounty hunters who were paid by the U.S. to turn in Arabs. Bush has also asserted the same authority in dealing with numerous bills passed by Congress, most spectacularly in his treatment of the McCain amendment banning "cruel, inhuman or degraded treatment" of POWs. In his signing statement, Bush said: "The executive branch shall construe [the torture provision] in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and as Commander in Chief and consistent with the constitutional limitations on the judiciary * * *"

This general formula had by then become a standard part of Bush's signing statements, though few noticed. What Bush said about the torture bill was particularly egregious since Vice President Cheney, Bush's liaison with Congress, had tried to negotiate with the Senate a provision watering down McCain's amendment, and failed. The Senate passed it by a vote of 90 to 9, and the House endorsed it by a vote of 308 to 122. It had been an open, well-publicized fight and the President lost.

In late February, shortly after Bush's signing statement on the McCain amendment, the Constitution Project, a bipartisan, non-profit organization in Washington, issued a protest signed by former government officials of both parties, prominent conservatives, and scholars, saying that they "are deeply concerned about the risk of permanent and unchecked presidential power, and the accompanying failure of Congress to exercise its responsibility as a separate and independent branch of government." They objected to Bush's assertions that he "may not be bound" by statutes enacted by Congress, such as the McCain amendment, and that he can ignore "long-standing treaty commitments and statutes that prohibit the torture of prisoners." It concluded that "we agree that we face a constitutional crisis."

Another egregious use of the signing statements occurred when Bush said in March that, in interpreting the bill reauthorizing the Patriot Act, he would ignore the require-

ment that the president report to Congress on the steps taken to implement the law, thus denying that the executive should be accountable to Congress. Patrick Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued an angry protest calling Bush's use of signing statements "nothing short of a radical effort to re-shape the constitutional separation of powers and evade accountability and responsibility for following the law." Leahy added, "The President's signing statements are not the law, and we [the Congress] should not allow them to become the last word."

Bush went still further in his extraordinary claim of supreme power on December 17, 2005, when he acknowledged that, as revealed in *The New York Times* the day before, the government was conducting warrantless wiretapping of domestic calls. He claimed that he had the power to order such taps "to save lives," regardless of what the existing law said.

His claim rested on two contradictory arguments. First, he said that warrantless wiretaps were authorized in the resolution enacted three days after September 11, which said that the president could "use all necessary and appropriate force" to combat al-Qaeda. But the administration also argued that it didn't need authorization because of the inherent powers of the commander in chief. Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle wrote that the administration had asked for a much broader resolution on the use of force than the one Congress approved. At the last minute the White House sought to have the resolution also include actions "in the United States" but was turned down.

One problem with the President's claims of extraordinary powers as commander in chief is that the "war on terror" is by definition an open-ended one, with no time limit on the president's powers, as Bush interprets them, to do virtually whatever he wants in order to conduct that war. There are undefined limits on how far the legislature can go in instructing the president on how to conduct a war; clearly it cannot tell him how to deploy combat troops. But during the Vietnam War, Congress used the power of the purse, voting to cut off funds. The Nixon administration didn't argue that Congress had no power to do so.

There is no way of knowing how many other laws already on the books are being reinterpreted by Bush, as he's done in the case of the NSA wiretapping program. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, passed in 1978 after the Supreme Court had unanimously rejected as illegal Richard Nixon's domestic wiretapping, set forth what it said were the "exclusive means" by which an administration could conduct surveillance on Americans. The FISA law set up a special, secret court that could grant the government permission to wiretap American citizens after a showing of probable cause. One of the administration's justifications for initiating a wiretapping program outside the FISA law is that taps on potential terrorists must be initiated speedily; but the FISA law gives the executive three days to conduct a warrantless tap in an emergency and fifteen days if there's been a declaration of war. Gonzales complains that the law is too burdensome, since the attorney general still has to sign off on emergency taps and that they have to meet FISA standards. (A Republican senator, upon being told these complaints, said, "So what's the problem?") But the FISA law has been amended twice since it was enacted and the administration has never specifically and clearly asked Congress to revise the law to take account of changed circumstances.

The administration's wiretapping program appears to violate the Fourth Amendment's

guarantee that “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause. . . .” The original impetus for the Bush program reportedly came from General Michael V. Hayden, then head of the National Security Agency, which collects information in the name of national security, and Bush’s nominee to head the CIA. Hayden told a receptive White House that the NSA counsel had said the program was legal. The government claims that if a member of al-Qaeda, or of a group “supportive of” al-Qaeda, calls or e-mails someone in the United States, or if someone in the U.S. initiates the conversation, the government, which could already tap the suspected terrorist, can now tap the U.S. resident as well. This raised the question whether that U.S. citizen’s other calls would be tapped.

In a press briefing given at the White House by Gonzales and Hayden on January 19 this year, Gonzales emphasized that “one party to the communication has to be outside the United States” and insisted there has to be “a reasonable basis” for concluding that one party to the communication is affiliated with or “supportive of” al-Qaeda, an extremely vague standard. And the administration is now making that decision, not the FISA court. Gonzales, moreover, has told congressional committees that he couldn’t rule out that the President has the authority to wiretap purely domestic calls. Asked why the administration didn’t go to Congress for authorization to wiretap domestic calls in terrorism cases without seeking a warrant, Gonzales replied: “We have had discussions with Congress in the past—certain members of Congress—as to whether or not FISA could be amended to allow us to adequately deal with this kind of threat, and we were advised that that would be difficult, if not impossible.” In other words, having been told that Congress was unlikely to authorize the warrantless wiretaps of domestic calls, the administration went ahead and did the tapping.

The Bush administration’s reaction to the revelations about the wiretapping program has been to attack the leaks. In his statement acknowledging the wiretapping program, Bush said, “The fact that we’re discussing this program is helping the enemy.” In an attempt to limit congressional oversight, the administration tried to restrict the number of members of Congress it would brief on such matters. According to a presidential directive issued quietly after September 11, officials were to discuss highly classified information with only the Republican chairman and the ranking Democrat on the Senate and House Intelligence Committees—committees that were established to conduct oversight on intelligence activities following the CIA scandals in the mid-Seventies—as well as the Republican and Democratic leaders of each chamber (a total of eight people) and not with the full intelligence committees.

Under the new rules, the members of this small group of people weren’t permitted to discuss the program with other members of the intelligence committees, or with their own staffs. It was for the administration to decide which intelligence matters were too sensitive to discuss with the entire intelligence committees. One problem with this White House-imposed arrangement was that just as members of other congressional committees become cozy with the government agencies they are supposed to oversee, the intelligence committee heads—with the notable exception of Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller, of West Virginia—are known to be close to the intelligence agencies. In July

2003, Rockefeller sent Cheney a handwritten letter saying that the restrictions on briefings “raise profound oversight issues.”

Rockefeller also wrote that the wiretapping program recalled the highly intrusive Pentagon Total Information Awareness program headed by John Poindexter, which Congress voted to abolish. The resemblance, he wrote, “exacerbated my concern regarding the direction the administration is moving with regard to security, technology, and surveillance.” (Rockefeller released the statement following the Times’s disclosure.) Earlier this year, Chuck Hagel and Olympia Snowe, Republican of Maine, threatened to vote with the Democrats for an investigation of the wiretapping program unless the full committee was briefed on it. In early March, on the eve of a scheduled vote on the matter, Cheney was called to a meeting with some committee Republicans in S207, the committee’s highly secured room in the Capitol. The Republicans, including Snowe, sharply criticized Cheney for the administration’s attempts to prevent other committee members from being briefed about the program.

Cheney had to report to the White House that its plan to shut out all but the top committee members was no longer feasible. But, working with Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, the administration was able to limit the additional committee members to be briefed to four Republicans and three Democrats, still leaving most of the intelligence committee members, not to mention other elected officials, in the dark. On the eve of Hayden’s confirmation hearings, Roberts, facing a public revolt by committee members of both parties, agreed that all of the committee members should be briefed on the surveillance programs. This was also a way of preventing committee members who hadn’t been briefed from asking awkward questions in public. (This led to the tepid questioning of Hayden in his public confirmation hearings.) Despite the briefing, in the public hearing Snowe said, “the Congress was really never really consulted or informed in the manner that we could truly perform our oversight role as co-equal branches of government, not to mention—I happen to believe—required by law.”

In March, after the Senate Intelligence Committee declined to hold hearings on the matter, Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania, convened four days of hearings before the Judiciary Committee. But Specter concluded that Gonzales’s testimony was too vague to be informative. In late April he threatened to cut off NSA funds for the wiretapping program if the administration didn’t reveal more about it. Asked by a reporter why he didn’t call Gonzales back to appear before his committee, Specter replied, “Because he won’t tell us anything.” The administration, apparently on the orders of the White House, shut down a Justice Department investigation into the wiretapping program.

Bush’s nomination of Hayden to be the next CIA director set off an undoubtedly greater clamor than the White House expected over his role in the wiretapping program and his strenuous public defense of it, but the White House claimed it welcomed the fight. And then another clamor was set off by the revelation by USA Today that the NSA was collecting the phone records of tens of millions of Americans from major telephone companies. In a statement to the press, Bush said the NSA wasn’t listening to the calls but was only tracing the pattern of contacts they revealed. But it would be easy for the NSA or another agency to correlate the numbers with the names of the callers. In any event, the program is quite possibly illegal. (Specter is to hold hearings.) These

disclosures led some lawmakers to wonder what else they hadn’t been told that the administration was doing in the name of national security.

A big congressional fight over the wiretapping program would fit neatly into Karl Rove’s strategy, declared earlier this year to a meeting of the Republican National Committee, of cynically making the issue of national security central to the 2006 election, as he did in 2002. “Republicans,” he said, “have a post-9/11 worldview and many Democrats have a pre-9/11 worldview.” With its penchant for propagandistic titles (the “Patriot Act”), the administration calls the warrantless wiretapping program the “terrorist surveillance” program, and it imputes to its opponents the view that terrorists should not be wiretapped. But of course that is not the issue: most of the critics on Capitol Hill are simply arguing that wiretapping programs should be subject to the law. Hagel says, “You cannot have one branch of government make the decision on whose rights would be violated. That’s the very basis of having three co-equal branches of government.”

As for the judicial branch, the Bush administration, like previous administrations, has tried to appoint judges compatible with the President’s views. But Bush has been strikingly successful at putting extreme conservatives on the bench, and probably now has four votes on the Supreme Court for his “unitary executive” rationale for executive authority over what the other branches do. His administration has several times told the Supreme Court that it should not hear the cases of detainees. Also by his appointments and by exerting pressure Bush has bent the supposedly independent regulatory agencies (the EPA, SEC, FDA, etc.) closer to his political views—in his case, pro-deregulation—than any president before him. The explicit rationale for these agencies is that they were to be independent of both the executive and Congress. There have already been two federal court rulings charging the EPA with defying federal environmental law.

As for the press, Justice Department officials have threatened to prosecute not only officials who leak classified information, but also anyone else who simply receives classified information, whether they disclose it or not. Gonzales has suggested that journalists might be prosecuted for disclosing classified information (for example, The New York Times reporters for revealing the warrantless wiretapping program). On May 16, ABC News reported on its Web site that the FBI had stepped up government efforts to seek reporters’ phone records in investigations of leaks. Many reporters and editors find it ominous that the administration prosecuted two lobbyists for AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, for receiving such information (as well as passing it on to Israel), and that, in early March, the FBI demanded the papers of the late investigative reporter Jack Anderson.

Cheney and his chief of staff, David Addington, formerly his counsel, are understood by most informed observers to be mainly responsible for the expansive interpretations of the president’s powers, as well as the unprecedented secrecy with which the administration conducts public affairs. According to The New York Times, after September 11 Cheney and Addington pushed for the wiretapping of domestic calls. A Republican lobbyist I talked to told me that the administration’s attitude on various issues is simple: “It’s we just want it our way and we don’t want to be bothered by talking to other people about it.”

Some Republican observers suggest that Cheney is living in a time warp, reacting to what he saw as congressional encroachment

(including FISA) on the president's powers during the time that he served in the Ford White House and as a minority member of a Democratic Congress. Despite rumors of a decline in his standing with Bush, Cheney remains the most powerful vice-president in American history, with an octopus-like reach into many parts of the government. He has placed his own people in each of the national security agencies—the Departments of Defense and State as well as the CIA and the National Security Council. (Until she recently took a maternity leave, his daughter Elizabeth was principal deputy assistant secretary of state for the Near East, a position that does not require Senate confirmation and from which people on Capitol Hill saw her as effectively in charge of the State Department's Middle East bureau.) Cheney installed Porter Goss in the CIA, with orders to root out people who leaked information inconvenient to the administration. It's difficult, however, to know much about what Cheney is doing because his office operates in such secrecy that a reporter friend of mine refers to it as a "black hole."

In Bush, Cheney has had a very receptive listener. Bush's own overweening attitude toward the presidency is clear from his behavior. He bristles at being challenged. He told Bob Woodward, "I do not need to explain why I say things. That's the interesting thing about being the president. Maybe somebody needs to explain to me why they say something, but I don't feel I owe anybody an explanation." His comment, "I'm the decider," about not firing Rumsfeld, is in fact a phrase he has used often.

Why have the members of Congress been so timorous in the face of the steady encroachment on their constitutional power by the executive branch? Conversations with many people in or close to Congress produced several reasons. Most members of Congress don't think in broad constitutional terms; their chief preoccupations are raising money and getting reelected. Their conversations with their constituents are about the more practical issues on voters' minds: the prices of gasoline, prescription drugs, and college tuition. Or about voters' increasing discontent with the Iraq war.

Republicans know that the President's deepening unpopularity might hurt them in the autumn elections; but, they point out, he's still a good fund-raiser and they need his help. Moreover, the Republicans are more hierarchical than the Democrats, more reverential toward their own party's president; it's unimaginable that Republicans would be as openly critical of Bush as the Democrats were of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. Republicans are more disciplined about delivering their party's "talking points" to the public. Republican fund-raising is done more from the top than is the case with Democrats, and there's always the implicit threat that if a Republican isn't loyal to the president, the flow of money to their campaigns might be cut off. A Republican opponent can challenge an incumbent in a primary, in which not many people vote. Here Arlen Specter has shown unusual courage. He barely survived a conservative challenge in the primary election in 2004 (though Bush supported him), and then had to beat back a conservative attempt to remove him as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee because of his views in favor of abortion rights. He survived by promising not to let his pro-choice views hold up the judicial nominations before the committee. Specter told me, "What I worry about most is the restrictions of Congress's constitutional authority, which the Congress doesn't resist."

Bush's declining popularity can occasionally impel Republicans to try to seem independent of him—as, say, on the issue of

Dubai being awarded a contract to administer U.S. ports; after all the administration's talk about security, this arrangement sounded outrageous in the American heartland, and members of Congress rushed to kill it. But the Republican legislators have also become convinced, in the words of one Republican senator, "We've got to hang with the president because if you start splitting with him or say the president has been abusing power we'll all go down." Karl Rove has recently been arguing along these lines to congressional Republicans. In the end, a Republican lobbyist told me, Republican politicians feel that Bush is "still their guy." The fierce partisanship on Capitol Hill also blocks serious discussion of the issue of unlimited executive power: many Republicans have concluded that the Democrats are exploiting such issues for partisan purposes and have dug in against them. On May 11, at a regular weekly luncheon of about twenty conservative senators, Senator Roberts denounced criticism of Bush's surveillance and data-collecting programs as "dangerous" and "insulting" to the President and charged the Democrats with treating national security as a political issue. Members of Congress who are protective of their institution and capable of looking beyond their parochial concerns—and who might have objected to Bush's encroachments on the legislative branch—are largely gone.

From the time of the vote on the Iraq war, many Democrats have been reluctant to be caught on the "wrong side" of "national security" issues, even those blatantly cooked up by the White House. It usually requires a strong public reaction, as there was on the subject of torture, for Congress to make a move against the President's actions. A Republican senator told me, "There's a feeling on the Hill that the public doesn't care about it, that it's willing to give up liberties in order to defeat the terrorists." Some of the proposals offered on Capitol Hill for regulating the NSA wiretaps amount to little regulation at all.

At the center of the current conflict over the Constitution is a president who surrounds himself with proven loyalists, who is not interested in complexities, and who is averse to debate and intolerant of dissenters within his administration and elsewhere. (A prominent Washington Republican who had raised a lot of money for Bush was dropped from the Christmas party list after he said something mildly critical of the President.) A Republican lobbyist close to the White House described to me what he called the Cult of Bush: "This group is all about loyalty and the definition of loyalty extends to policy-making, politics, and to the execution of policy—and to the regulatory agencies." The result, this man said, is that the people in the agencies, including the regulatory agencies, "become robotrons and just do what they're told. There's no dialogue."

The President's recent political weakness hasn't caused the White House to back away from its claims of extraordinary presidential power. The Republican lobbyist Vin Weber says, "I think they're keenly aware of the fact that they're politically weakened, but that's not the same thing as the institution of the presidency being damaged." People with very disparate political views, such as Grover Norquist and Dianne Feinstein, worry about the long-term implications of Bush's power grab. Norquist said, "These are all the powers that you don't want Hillary Clinton to have." Feinstein says, "I think it's very dangerous because other presidents will come along and this sets a precedent for them." Therefore, she says, "it's very important that Congress grapple with and make decisions about what our policies should be on torture, rendition, detainees, and wire-

tapping lest Bush's claimed right to set the policies, or his policies themselves, become a precedent for future presidents."

James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 47: "The accumulation of all powers legislative, executive and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many . . . may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

That extraordinary powers have, under Bush, been accumulated in the "same hands" is now undeniable. For the first time in more than thirty years, and to a greater extent than even then, our constitutional form of government is in jeopardy.

TRIBUTE TO LIZ COVENTRY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride and with an overwhelming sense of sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the lifelong career of public service of Liz Coventry.

Liz has been a loyal supporter, advisor, friend, and confidante for nearly a decade. Throughout my years in the New Jersey State Legislature and my tenure in Congress, Liz has been an integral part of the team that I depend upon and my constituents look to for assistance and guidance. There is no job too big for Liz's breadth of expertise and knowledge—she can accomplish any task before her. And, there is no job too small for Liz—she is a true team player, pitching in whenever she can and wherever she is needed.

In her capacity on my Congressional staff, Liz has been a great help to countless constituents. She truly takes each individual case to heart. No one who sits with Liz at her desk ever feels like a case number; she gives each person a real personal touch.

Liz has also been organizing a number of special projects for Fifth District residents, such as the art competition and a veterans history project. Her dedication to the art competition is worthy of the art patronage of the Medici Family during the Renaissance. She makes everyone of these young artists feel like Michelangelo or DaVinci. And, her commitment to the veterans history project is unparalleled. She is a one-woman USO, making every veteran she speaks with feel like the marines at Iwo Jima.

Liz has recently decided to take a well-deserved retirement after years in selfless public service. I know that my whole staff, my constituents, and I will miss her dearly, but we wish her the very best as she takes this grand step.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUEDY EDGINGTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ruedy Edgington as he leaves the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT).

Ruedy has been at the NDOT for 26 years. He has accepted a position as Parson Transportation Group's Area Manager. In his new

role as Area Manager, Ruedy will manage over 50 Parson's employees in Northern and Southern Nevada and will oversee the road and highway projects in Nevada, Utah, and Idaho.

Upon graduation from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1981, Ruedy began work for NDOT's Bridge Section where he worked for nine years. He then moved on to a position as the Assistant Materials Engineer to gain more experience in the field. In 1998, Ruedy was promoted to the position of chief construction engineer. He was again promoted in 1999 to become the assistant director for operations, and in 2004, Ruedy became the Assistant Director for Engineering. After serving NDOT for over 25 years, Ruedy is apprehensive about his career change, but he is looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that await him at the Parson Transportation Group.

Over the years Ruedy has led a number of special projects including: streamlining NDOT's in-house National Environmental Policy Act process, scheduling and tracking system for NDOT's in-house projects, developing Disputer Resolution Boards, and developing the initial bridge seismic retrofit program for NDOT.

Ruedy and his family have raised funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and have visited my office during their efforts. Ruedy loves to run and bike, but his favorite activity is spending time with his wife, Allyson, and their sons, Eric, who is 13, and Matthew, who is 10.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ruedy Edgington on the floor of the House. I commend him for his tremendous efforts for the state of Nevada, as well as his efforts to fight against Juvenile Diabetes.

PLAYING POLITICS WITH IRAQ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the record an opinion editorial from the June 26, New York Times entitled "Playing Politics with Iraq" by Bob Herbert in which the columnist alleges by giving the public what it wants, an orderly withdrawal from Iraq, the Bush administration is seeking political advantage from the conflict in Iraq, making the war part of a campaign strategy.

The post-war occupation of Iraq has not gone smoothly. This has had considerable influence on the approval rating of President Bush and the popularity of his policies. As such, the Bush Administration and Republican Congressional leadership seeks to turn the debate over the Iraq War in their favor. Their plan is to possibly reduce the number of troops in Iraq before this fall's Congressional elections, with possibly even bigger cuts before the 2008 elections. Yet even while the Bush Administration appears to be executing a withdrawal of a significant number of U.S. troops in the coming month its Republican allies in the Congress are relentlessly claiming that anyone who proposes a withdrawal of troops to be proponents of a "cut and run" appeasement. Is the President and his administration to be accused of "cut and run"?

The Bush White House and Republican Congressional leadership are playing politics

with Iraq. More than 2,500 American troops who answered the call to wage war in Iraq have already perished and thousands more are struggling with coming to terms with the emotional trauma and anguish as a result of their sacrifice. They deserve better, and we owe it to them to do better. We need to move beyond partisan politics because they only serve to deviate us from our main goal—the establishment of a safe and democratic Iraq state.

As a War veteran, I know from experience how sound policy can lessen the damaging effect a war like Iraq can have on the individual. I do not think the Iraq War should be part of any party's campaign strategy. Mr. Speaker I call upon the Republican Congressional Leadership to end this divisive practice of using the Iraq war for political gain or advantage.

[From the New York Times, June 26, 2006]

PLAYING POLITICS WITH IRAQ

(By Bob Herbert)

If hell didn't exist, we'd have to invent it. We'd need a place to send the public officials who are playing politics with the lives of the men and women sent off to fight George W. Bush's calamitous war in Iraq.

The administration and its allies have been mercilessly bashing Democrats who argued that the U.S. should begin developing a timetable for the withdrawal of American forces. Republicans stood up on the Senate floor last week, one after another, to chant like cultists from the Karl Rove playbook: We're tough. You're not. Cut-and-run. Nyah-nyah-nyah!

"Withdrawal is not an option," declared the Senate majority leader, Bill Frist, who sounded like an actor trying on personas that ranged from Barry Goldwater to General Patton. "Surrender," said the bellicose Mr. Frist, "is not a solution."

Any talk about bringing home the troops, in the Senate majority leader's view, was "dangerous, reckless and shameful."

But then on Sunday we learned that the president's own point man in Iraq, Gen. George Casey, had fashioned the very thing that ol' blood-and-guts Frist and his C-Span brigade had ranted against: a withdrawal plan.

Are Karl Rove and his liege lord, the bait-and-switch king, trying to have it both ways? You bet. And that ought to be a crime, because there are real lives at stake.

The first significant cut under General Casey's plan, according to an article by Michael Gordon in yesterday's Times, would occur in September. That, of course, would be perfect timing for Republicans campaigning for reelection in November. How's that for a coincidence?

As Mr. Gordon wrote: "If executed, the plan could have considerable political significance. The first reductions would take place before this fall's Congressional elections, while even bigger cuts might come before the 2008 presidential election."

The general's proposal does not call for a complete withdrawal of American troops, and it makes clear that any withdrawals are contingent on progress in the war (which is going horribly at the moment) and improvements in the quality of the fledgling Iraqi government and its security forces.

The one thing you can be sure of is that the administration will milk as much political advantage as it can from this vague and open-ended proposal. If the election is looking ugly for the G.O.P., a certain number of troops will find themselves waking up state-side instead of in the desert in September and October.

I wonder whether Americans will ever become fed up with the loathsome politicking,

the fear-mongering, the dissembling and the gruesome incompetence of this crowd. From the Bush-Rove perspective, General Casey's plan is not a serious strategic proposal. It's a straw in the political wind.

How many casualties will be enough? More than 2,500 American troops who dutifully answered President Bush's call to wage war in Iraq have already perished, and thousands more are struggling in agony with bodies that have been torn or blown apart and psyches that have been permanently wounded.

Has the war been worth their sacrifice?

How many still have to die before we reach a consensus that we've overpaid for Mr. Bush's mad adventure? Will 5,000 American deaths be enough? Ten thousand?

The killing continued unabated last week. Iraq is a sinkhole of destruction, and if Americans could see it close up, the way we saw New Orleans in the immediate aftermath of Katrina, they would be stupefied.

Americans need to understand that Mr. Bush's invasion of Iraq was a strategic blunder of the highest magnitude. It has resulted in mind-boggling levels of bloodshed, chaos and misery in Iraq, and it certainly hasn't made the U.S. any safer.

We've had enough clownish debates on the Senate floor and elsewhere. We've had enough muscle-flexing in the White House and on Capitol Hill by guys who ran and hid when they were young and their country was at war. And it's time to stop using generals and their forces under fire in the field for cheap partisan political purposes.

The question that needs to be answered, honestly and urgently (and without regard to partisan politics), is how best to extricate overstretched American troops—some of them serving their third or fourth tours—from the flaming quicksand of an unwinnable war.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA MARC DAVIDSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a young man from Greenwood Village, Colorado, Mr. Joshua Marc Jacobson, for earning a Congressional Award Gold Medal.

The Congressional Award program challenges talented young men and women to be active in their communities, develop leadership skills, and challenge themselves physically and to go on expeditions domestically or internationally.

Josh completed over 400 hours of community service with the most rewarding project being a food drive that he organized as the chapter president of Future Business Leaders of America. His personal development goals were achieved through part-time work with local businesses. Here he was able to develop skills in leadership that he will be taking with him as an intern for a Congressional Campaign this summer. Josh completed his physical fitness requirements by playing varsity tennis in high school, after years of hard work to achieve his goal.

Josh's commitment to his community and his desire to become a future leader is significant as he continues to grow this summer and in the years ahead.

HONORING THE ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD 1165TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the men and women of the Alabama Army National Guard 1165th Military Police Company.

The 1165th Military Police Company, based in Fairhope, AL, is the first unit of the Alabama National Guard to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. This is the highest award given to any army unit and is the capstone of this highly decorated unit.

The award was given to the 1165th for their service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. For 13 months, the men and women of the 1165th conducted high profile patrols on the streets of Baghdad and trained Iraqi policemen. During their tour, the 1165th suffered many wounded soldiers and lost one fellow soldier, Specialist Christopher Taylor.

Even in times of difficulty, the morale of the 1165th remained high. On Easter Sunday 2004, after packing for the trip home, the 1165th received notice that their time in Iraq had been extended. Their dedication and commitment to the cause of freedom carried them through this time and is just one example—out of many—that speaks to why the 1165th is worthy of the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Presidential Unit Citation is given to a unit of the army forces of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. The unit must display such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from—and, in fact, above—other units participating in the same campaign.

It is an honor for me to rise today and recognize all of the brave men and women of America's armed forces and, in particular, the brave men and women of the 1165th Military Police Company.

May their dedication to the cause of freedom be an example to their families, friends, neighbors and citizens throughout Alabama and across the United States of America.

FREEDOM FOR RAFAEL CORRALES ALONSO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rafael Corrales Alonso, political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Corrales Alonso is a pro-democracy activist and a member of the 30 November Democratic Party, an island wide movement dedicated to the establishment of a democratic society, in opposition to the Castro tyranny. Unfortunately, those who believe that freedom, and human rights are the birthright of all men and women, are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

According to Amnesty International, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Corrales Alonso was arrested by the dictatorship. More than 2 years later he was tried on the supposed "crime" of "contempt" and, in a sham trial, Mr. Corrales Alonso was sentenced to 5 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Corrales Alonso is currently languishing in the deprived conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in democracy and freedom.

Mr. Corrales Alonso is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said, in his second inaugural address, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country."

Mr. Corrales Alonso represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the people of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rafael Corrales Alonso and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN DR. TURNER M. SPENCER

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia and a true public servant. On June 30, 2006, Councilman Turner M. Spencer will step down from the Hampton, Virginia City Council after 20 years of dedicated service. I would like to take a few moments to highlight just some of Councilman Spencer's achievements.

Dr. Spencer holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Biology from Virginia State University, a master's degree in education from Hampton University, and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the College of William and Mary.

In 1958, Dr. Spencer served his country on active duty for 2 years in the United States

Army, rising to the rank of captain, and he continued his military career with the United States Army Reserves, retiring as a major. Our grateful Nation is indebted to his service.

Dr. Spencer's career in public service began in the classroom. He joined the faculty of Thomas Nelson Community College in 1968, eventually serving as Chairman of the Thomas Nelson Biology Department until his retirement in 2000. Dr. Spencer played an integral part in the education and training of thousands of students in Hampton and surrounding cities.

In addition to his distinguished personal career, Councilman Spencer has had a long and prosperous political career. In 1986, he was first appointed to the Hampton City Council. He has served continuously on the council for the last 20 years, including a term as Vice-Mayor. He has also served his city as Chairman of the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and as Chairman of the Hampton Roads Transportation District Commission.

His expertise in transportation, an area of great importance in our State, was recognized when he was elected President of the Virginia Transit Association in 1995. In that same year, leaders from other Virginia localities selected Councilman Spencer to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Municipal League and President of the League's Transportation Policy Committee.

Councilman Spencer's service to his State has not caused him to neglect his community. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Hampton Roads, and he has served on the Board of Trustees of both Messiah Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Hampton.

As he prepares to step down from the City Council, I have no doubt that Councilman Spencer will remain active in the community.

Whether it's through his membership in Kiwanis International or the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., I expect to see Councilman Spencer continuing to play a role in local and State civic affairs. I once again congratulate Councilman Spencer on his 20 years of service to the citizens of Hampton, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

COMMENDING OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY ON THEIR COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Oregon State University's 2006 baseball team on their College World Series Championship June 26, 2006. This title is a fitting ending to a truly remarkable season for the Beavers. The team has made Oregon proud; this is a victory for fans throughout the state.

I'd like to recognize the individual coaches and players not only for their victory, but also for their teamwork and sportsmanship which undoubtedly contributed to this accomplishment for the team and the university. Head Coach Pat Casey, Coaches Marty Lees and Dan Spencer, Assistant Coach David Wong and Strength and Conditioning Coach Andy Dendas.

Players: Erik Ammon, Sophomore; Darwin Barney, Sophomore; Bret Bochsler, Freshman; Reed Brown, Sophomore; Dallas Buck, Junior; Brian Budrow, Freshman; Mitch Canham, Sophomore; Bryn Card, Freshman; Brett Casey, Freshman; Cory Ellis, Freshman; Derek Engelke, Sophomore; Josh Forgue, Freshman; Cole Gillespie, Junior; Ryan Gipson, Senior; Tyler Graham, Junior; Mark Grbavac, Freshman; Kevin Gunderson, Junior; Koa Kahalehoe, Freshman; Greg Keim, Junior; Jon Koller, Senior; Chris Kunda, Senior; Eddie Kunz, Sophomore; Joey Lakowske, Freshman; Greg Laybourn, Freshman; Lonnie Lechelt, Sophomore; Mike Lissman, Junior; Anton Maxwell, Junior; Jake McCormick, Junior; Shea McFeely, Senior; Jonah Nickerson, Junior; Joe Paterson, Sophomore; Casey Priceman, Sophomore; Sean Rockey, Freshman; Bill Rowe, Senior; Scott Santschi, Senior; Alex Sogard, Freshman; Dale Solomon, Freshman; Michael Stutes, Sophomore; Rob Summers, Freshman; Daniel Turpen, Sophomore; Geoff Wagner, Senior; John Wallace, Freshman.

As the underdog team throughout much of the tournament Oregon State truly impressed us with their resilience. Oregon State is the first team in 16 years to win their first College World Series game and national title in the same season. The support of the community and fans contributed much to the spirit that followed this team through their victory. Of notable credit, Jonathan Casey, son of Coach Pat Casey inspired us all with his unbreakable belief in Oregon State Baseball.

Oregon State is the first Northern-based school to win the College World Series in 40 years, I hope that this is a new trend in athletics throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Congratulations Beavers on a hard-fought and well-earned championship.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOM REILLY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Mr. Thom Reilly as he prepares to resign as the Clark County Manager, which is one of the fastest growing counties in the country with more than 1.5 million residents, and is accepting the position as Vice Chancellor of the University of Nevada Health Science Services Center for the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Thom began his service to Nevada in 1987, when he took a policy analyst position in Carson City's Department of Human Resources. While working in Carson City, he had the opportunity to serve as Chief of Social Services, and was subsequently promoted to Deputy Administrator.

In 1991, Thom moved to Las Vegas and joined the Division of Child and Family Services, where he oversaw the Child Welfare System in Nevada. Thom left his state position to work for Clark County in 1997. As Director of Clark County Administrative Services, he served as Chief Administrator, and was responsible for administering and planning Clark County's legislative initiatives, franchise agreements, emergency management, policy and

program development, and strategic planning efforts.

In August of 1999, Thom left Clark County to accept a position as Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV. He has taught a number of graduate level courses in public administration and social work, and continues to teach on a part-time basis. Thom returned to work for Clark County in 2001, as County Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

Thom holds both a Doctorate and Master of Public Administration degrees from the University of Southern California, USC, a Master of Social Work from Arizona State University, and a B.A. from Memphis State University. He is the author of numerous articles in the areas of health and human services, environmental planning and citizen participation. Thom is also active in numerous community organizations and serves on the editorial boards for the journals *Public Administration Review*, *PAR*, and *Administration in Social Work*.

Recently Thom has been quoted saying, "It's been a distinct pleasure to serve the citizens of Clark County and the members of the County Commission, and I've had some wonderful years here and have worked with a lot of very talented people who take their roles as public servants very seriously. Now I look forward to continuing to serve the people of this state in my new role."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Thom Reilly on the floor of the House. From the needs of a foster child to the needs of a vibrant and expanding community, Thom has a true gift of serving his fellow man. I am honored to have him as a friend. I commend him for his continued contributions to the state of Nevada and especially the residents of Clark County.

HONORING LANE JOHNSON ON THE COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Lane Johnson has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. A resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, Lane has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

This fall, Lane will begin her final semester at the University of Tennessee, where she is majoring in agricultural economics and business. She is a member of Chi Omega, and I understand she is a member of the school's equestrian team. I hope those horses in Knoxville treat her better than the ones in Virginia did.

During her internship, Lane won over the entire staff with her ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. She has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Lane has enjoyed her internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed her presence in the office. I wish her all the best in the future.

RECOGNITION OF CORPORAL RYAN J. BUCKLEY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Cpl Ryan J. Buckley who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Baghdad, Iraq.

Corporal Buckley was a 21-year-old from Nokomis, Illinois and was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He graduated high school in Hillsboro, IL.

Buckley paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is survived by his wife, Tina of Oak Grove, KY; mother and stepfather, Sally and Russell Nation of Hillsboro, IL; his father, Dennis Buckley of Hannibal, MO; a brother, Cody Buckley; a stepbrother, Aaron Nation; a stepsister, Danielle Nation; and many other family, friends and loved ones. I am proud of the service this young man gave to his country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Corporal Buckley. It is soldiers like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. God bless them and may God continue to bless America.

IN MEMORY OF LOUIS JOSEPH

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Fire Chief Louis Joseph of Erwin, North Carolina, who died March 15, 2006. In his passing, Erwin lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved men, my friend Louis Joseph, died Wednesday afternoon at Rex Hospital following a battle with cancer he developed from a rare respiratory disease. He was 63. Louis was the longtime Erwin fire chief and coproprietor of Joseph's Department Store in Erwin. He was diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis in October 2004. After 45 years as a firefighter and 30 years as chief, Louis's health forced him to retire from the department last June.

Chief Joseph and his brother George Joseph, Jr. were sons of an immigrant father from Beirut, Lebanon. George Joseph, Sr. came to North Carolina in 1933 to work in his brother's department store in Benson. After a try in the ice cream business, Mr. Joseph, Sr. opened a men's clothing store in 1948, which led to Joseph's Department Store and the first men's clothing store in Dunn, NC. Finally in 1951 Mr. Joseph, Sr. moved his department store east to Erwin where Joseph's Department Store still stands today. Louis and his brother George Jr. both worked at the store after school and eventually took over their father's business. Both sons demonstrated a life

long commitment to the business and to Erwin. Both George Sr. and George Jr. served as Erwin past mayors and George Joseph, Jr. continues to manage the department store. He continues to be among Erwin's most effective and giving community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Louis Joseph used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful businessman, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

LEGAL AID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God with liberty and justice for all. Justice for all—yet every year when this appropriation comes up we have to debate funding for Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind this chamber about the vital and indispensable role Legal Services plays in providing access to our civil justice system for all people who would otherwise be financially incapable of seeking justice in our courts of law.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make a decision right now about what kind of government we want to be. We can either decide to ensure justice for all Americans or we can have justice for all Americans with thick wallets. We can honor all of the men and women who have sacrificed corner offices and 6-digit paychecks to work at Legal Services offices, like the one down the hall from my Chicago office, or we can turn our back on them.

I know funding is tight. I know there is a war to pay for and hundreds of other worthy causes to fund. The money pot is only so big. But this is where we need to make our decision. We promise liberty and justice to all, not liberty and justice to all who have the resources to pay for it. We are talking about the most basic representation to those Americans who have nowhere else to turn to seek justice.

When we are serious about improving race relations, relationships between law enforcement and communities, when we are serious about reducing racial profiling on our streets and roadways, in our airports and in our courtrooms, when we are serious about the real pursuit of justice for all of America, we will secure the resources necessary so that everybody will have an opportunity to bridge the gap between those who have and those who have not.

We must provide access to the judicial system for every single person who seeks it.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ALLEN MUIR, JR.

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I remember a very dear friend of

mine, Robert Allen Muir, Jr. of Staten Island, New York, who recently passed away. Bob was one of the kindest, most sincere and genuine people I have ever met—and I long considered him a member of my family.

Bob was a widely respected election lawyer who worked with candidates from both sides of the aisle, including Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Steve Forbes and myself. Bob also was an aide to Mayor Lindsay and Congressman Freddy Richmond. He had a great legal mind and he put his expertise to use helping those leaders he felt could make a positive impact on New York City, State, and the nation. In addition, Bob was filled with common sense. He understood the concerns of average Americans, and he was able to express them in simple language that always made the point.

Bob was born in New York City and moved to Staten Island in his early 20s. He later lived in Brooklyn and New Jersey until finally returning to Staten Island and the New Brighton community in 2003.

A graduate of Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey, Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his law degree from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan.

Besides a great friendship, Bob and I also shared another passion, the New York Yankees. Bob reserved his Friday nights during baseball season for trips to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers. He also enjoyed outings on his boat, cooking, and gardening. He and his wife, Ilsa, were set to begin their new life in their new home. Bob designed this beautiful home himself to resemble a traditional Colonial residence. Everything was looking great until the Almighty called him home.

Along with Ilsa, Bob leaves behind two daughters Karen and Heather. All who knew Bob were grateful for his kindness and compassion. He was always fighting for the most vulnerable among us. New York State and City are a better place because of Bob Muir. We miss him dearly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT (H.R. 5717)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will improve No Child Left Behind (NCLB) implementation while maintaining its important accountability provisions.

NCLB provides a crucial level of accountability for the results of study in the classroom. While this change was welcome on both sides of the aisle, this law did present some technical problems in its ground-breaking measurement and assessment of education achievement. I have worked closely with education specialists at the North Central Education Lab as well as local education professionals as part of my Education Advisory Board to gather data on NCLB implementation. This work resulted in a White paper detailing areas of concern to my local schools, coupled with practical solutions to these problems.

Specifically, this Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act focuses on highly-qualified teacher requirements, determinations of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), and NCLB sanctions. My legislation maintains NCLB's important accountability provisions while improving implementation of the law in these key areas.

Every child deserves an excellent teacher. Unfortunately, several schools are experiencing difficulty meeting the highly-qualified teacher requirements in certain hard-to-staff areas. Much like rural teachers were given relief through rules, teachers in "hard to staff" areas should be granted relief for the highly qualified teacher provision in the form of a two year extension. However, schools must demonstrate that they are working towards full compliance in order to qualify for the extension.

Secondly, I strongly support measuring AYP for students. However, current law does not measure individual student improvement, counts students under multiple sub-groups, and creates discrepancies between NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My legislation ensures that students are compared for consecutive years rather than two different classes for the same school year, places equal weight on each student, and clarifies Individualized Education Program status under NCLB. All these changes still maintain accountability measures under NCLB but provide more accurate assessments.

Now that this landmark legislation has been in effect for a few years, it is important we revisit its effects. My bill takes into consideration important practical concerns of my local school boards while staying true to the goals of NCLB. I am proud that this bill reflects the advice and counsel of the North Central Education Lab, my Education Advisory Board and the National Education Association. I want to pay special thanks to Dr. Paul Kimmelman, the chairman of our 10th Congressional district Education Advisory Board, who led much of this work.

Mr. Speaker, the Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act represents a strong bipartisan consensus, backed by school management and unions, to make the job of defining success and education achievement more accurate and useful.

HONORING REVEREND HOWARD JOHNSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Howard Johnson for his dedication to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church of Mobile, Alabama, where he has spent the last 24 years as pastor.

Reverend Johnson was born on June 26, 1940, in Jackson, Alabama. He was reared and educated in Clarke County. He became a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Citronelle, Alabama, and served there for 12 years. He received both an associate arts degree and bachelor of arts degree from S.D. Bishop State Junior College and Mobile College between 1975 and 1976. He received his master of divinity degree in 1979 when he

graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctor of divinity degree from the Virginia Seminary. Since 1984, Reverend Johnson has served as the pastor at the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Johnson has held various positions in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and the Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church. He has also led and been a member of many civic and religious organizations. Currently, he is the chaplain for the University of South Alabama Medical Center. He is truly a leader in our community and deserves recognition for all of his many achievements.

On Sunday, July 13, 2006, Reverend Johnson will be recognized for his 24 years of service to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church. He and his wife, Gloria, are the proud parents of three wonderful children—a son, Private First Class Howard Johnson II; and two daughters, Zsaquez RaShaunn and Geiselle LaVonne. Private Johnson was America's first casualty in the war in Iraq. Tragically, Private Johnson's supply convoy was ambushed in the early days of the campaign in the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah. Private Johnson remains a hero not only to his family and friends but to a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Reverend Johnson on this special day and this remarkable achievement. Unfortunately, a prior engagement out of town will prevent me from joining Reverend Johnson and his family and friends as they celebrate this milestone. I know his lovely wife, Gloria, his family and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks to the Good Lord for Reverend Johnson's exemplary service over the years to the congregation of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church.

WELCOMING THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPHOLDING CORPORATION TO SOUTHWEST ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and welcome the International Shipholding Corporation to the port city of Mobile, Alabama.

For six decades, the International Shipholding Corporation has been an institution in the port of New Orleans.

Unfortunately, following Hurricane Katrina, restrictions regarding the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet were placed on the shipping industry, creating a financial burden on the corporation and similar companies. After much deliberation, International Shipholding Corporation decided to move its corporate headquarters and operations of its subsidiary CG Railway Incorporated, to the port of Mobile.

When the corporation takes up residence in Mobile in early 2007, it will bring 150 jobs to the area and more than 80 related jobs in the local maritime community. The move is also expected to increase ship traffic at the Alabama State Docks by about 9 percent. Moreover, we will be proud to have International Shipholding as the only corporation in Mobile to be publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

While I know the men and women of the International Shipholding Corporation are saddened to leave their roots in southern Louisiana, I sincerely hope they find that the hospitality of the people of Mobile and southwest Alabama will help to make their transition easier.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Mobile and the First District of Alabama to welcome the newest member of our corporate family, the International Shipholding Corporation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BENJAMIN STEPHENSON

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House in Edwardsville. This Sunday, July 2nd marks the dedication of Stephenson House and the completion of a successful community effort to reopen her doors to the public. The House is 186 years old.

The Stephenson House is on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered to be the oldest brick home in the county. The House was also a gathering place for many of Illinois' early political leaders. Benjamin Stephenson came to the Illinois Territory in 1809 where he was appointed the first sheriff of Randolph County. During the War of 1812 he attained the rank of Colonel. Stephenson also served in Congress as a representative from the Illinois Territory from 1814–1816.

Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Committee learned in 1998 that they succeeded in receiving a grant to restore the historic House. Since that time, it has been a community effort to complete the restoration. The House is now restored and furnished as it would have been in 1820, allowing visitors to learn about Illinois in its earliest days. Visitors to the House are given a tour by volunteers who dress in period costumes, giving a glimpse into 19th century life in Edwardsville.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Stephenson House on her dedication. I wish the volunteers and staff at the Stephenson House all the best in the years to come.

PATRICK DURANTE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, one of the best known and admired political figures in suburban Chicago is Patrick Durante of Addison, Illinois. One of the most influential local newspapers FRA NOI recently published a commentary by Leonard Amara about Pat that is worth reading and portions of it follow:

POLITICAL UPDATE

For many years, folks from our ethnic community have demonstrated leadership in many Illinois counties. This month, we highlight the career of the highly regarded Patrick Durante. Serving as Chairman of the Addison Township Republican Organization

since 1974, this is the longest term to date for a Republican township chairman from DuPage County's Republican Party.

Born in 1940, Pat's political life started in 1964 at the age of 24, as a member of the Young Republicans. He went on to serve as Addison Township YR president, DuPage County YR vice chairman, and Illinois state YR executive director. During the course of his township chairmanship, he also served as the Illinois 6th District State Central Committeeman for 9 years. This early success demonstrated Pat Durante's interest in improving his community by suggesting its agenda and taking a leadership role.

Franco Caladiapietro, a candidate for the Illinois House in the 45th District, says of his mentor: "I'm involved in the political process because of people like Pat Durante. Pat, along with Hank Gianvecchio, Ed Levato and others of Bloomingdale Township, are my role models as to what politicians should stand for, what we should aspire to be."

For Pat, as an Italian American in the early 1960s, breaking into the German/Irish/English Republican establishment in DuPage County was no easy task. There were only about a half dozen Italian Americans in the DuPage County Republican Party back then, and arguably our president wasn't well received. Having to endure the "usual Mafia, Dago barbs that were constantly spoken behind our backs," according to Pat, he takes great pride in knowing that he helped open doors, because today there are hundreds of Italian Americans in various positions throughout the DuPage County Republican Party.

Although Durante has been part of dozens of campaign staffs, and has personally run dozens of campaigns, his fondest memories include being a deputy state chairman for President Ronald Reagan; coordinator for Jim (Stringini) Ryan, Illinois attorney general and candidate for governor; and, most of all, serving as executive assistant to Congressman Henry Hyde.

In 1963, now-deceased Elmwood Park Village President Elmer Conti urged Durante to get involved in politics. Conti was also instrumental in getting Henry Hyde to run for Congress in 1974. Pat has always held that, if ever there is a non-Italian to whom Italian Americans owe a large debt, it is Hyde.

Pat's family lived on Peoria Street in the Taylor Street neighborhood. Angelo Durante, his paternal grandfather, came to America in 1901 from Laurino, Avellini, Italy, and opened up newspaper stands to make a living for his son James (Patrick's father), and his six daughters. His wife, who was a Gregorio, was also from Laurino.

His maternal grandfather, John Bertelotti came here from Stazzema, Italy, in 1911, along with his wife and two daughters, Josephine (Patrick's mother) and Corrinne. He opened John's Grocery Store at Flournoy and Loomis and became prominent in the Chicago Italian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Early in his professional life, Pat scraped up enough money to buy a house in Itasca, where he raised two wonderful children, Lori Ann and Vincent. Pat and his present wife, Kathie Cermak-Durante, currently reside in Addison. Vince and his lovely wife Katie live in Bartlett and recently presented Pat with life's greatest reward, a grandson, Nicholas. Though Pat's parents passed away, they left him with many inspirational traits, the most compelling of which are his pride in being an Italian American and a passion for politics.

His future plans are to stay with Congressman Hyde until he concludes his term at the end of 2006. He will stay on as Addison Township chairman for a few more terms if his fellow Republicans allow him, and he will be involved in campaigns for governor, congressman and a few others. He will continue to

look for young people to train in the art of politics, like his protégés, Franco Coladipietro, and Dennis Reboletti, another candidate for state representative. He will help rebuild the Republican Party, while reminding himself whence he came so he can continue to be thankful for where he is today.

COMMENDING BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH J. MCMENAMIN ON HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR NATION UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to Brigadier General Joseph J. McMenamin, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. General McMenamin has served our great Nation for more than 32 years. The departure of General McMenamin marks not only the end of an illustrious career filled with many honors, but also the commencement of several initiatives which, by virtue of his dynamic leadership, forward thinking approach, and accomplished diplomatic skills, will ensure that U.S. national strategy is prepared to meet and defeat the challenges of the 21st century.

A native of historical Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, General McMenamin graduated from Villanova University with a degree in political science in May, 1974 and later completed his Master of Arts degree in Strategic Studies and National Security Affairs graduating with distinction in May 1995 from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program, General McMenamin was assigned to 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan where he served as the 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander and Headquarters & Service Company Executive Officer. For heroism during a mission on the Koh Tang Island in the Gulf of Siam, General McMenamin earned a Bronze Star Medal with Combat "Y". Upon returning from Okinawa in February 1976, General McMenamin was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, where he served as a Series Officer, Battalion Adjutant and Regimental Adjutant.

In October 1979, he transferred to the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California where he served as the Weapons Company Commander and the Battalion Fire Support Coordinator with the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines for three years. Following this tour, he attended and graduated from Amphibious Warfare School with honors at Quantico, Virginia. Whereupon, General McMenamin reported to The Basic School to serve as a Tactics Instructor, Tactics Section Chief, Student Company Commander and Assistant Tactics Group Chief guiding the integration of tactics and weapons utilizing classroom instruction, field applications and live fire in order to produce a better trained basic Marine Officer. Selected for recruiting duty, he served as the Com-

manding Officer of Recruiting Station, Cincinnati, Ohio from June 1986 to June 1989. In Cincinnati, he focused on quality recruiting while reducing entry-level attrition. After recruiting duty, General McMenamin attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College graduating with honors. Completing school in June 1990, General McMenamin served an air-ground exchange tour with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan participating in Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh.

Returning to the United States in July 1991, General McMenamin was initially assigned as the G-3 Training Officer of the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He later assumed command of the 2d Light Armored Infantry Battalion in July 1992 applying the post Desert Storm lessons learned into manuals for Command and Control and Combat Operations. He developed a comprehensive training program that laid the foundation for increased combat readiness and the professional development of his Marines and Sailors. Completing this assignment in February, 1994, General McMenamin completed his tour with the 2d Marine Division as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Readiness.

In 1995, General McMenamin reported for joint duty with the United States Central Command serving as the Strategy Branch Chief and Division Chief, Policy and Strategy Division in the J-5 Plans and Policy Directorate where he guided the development of the initial CENTCOM Theater Engagement Plan and the significant expansion of the Humanitarian Demining Program. In June, 1999, he reported for duty as the Commanding Officer of the Sixth Marine Corps District where he re-energized the District into a cohesive team increasing quantity and quality, reducing attrition, and focusing leadership development on long term success.

General McMenamin then served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Region, Parris Island, South Carolina from June, 2001 until May, 2004. Under his leadership, Parris Island provided reception, processing and recruit training for 17,500 enlisted male and 2,200 enlisted females annually to accomplish entry-level skills. In addition, Parris Island achieved a historically low 10 percent male attrition over the course of three years.

In June, 2004, General McMenamin was assigned as the Director, Iraq Survey Group (ISG), Baghdad, Iraq leading the presidential directed joint coalition intelligence operations group in Baghdad, Iraq. The ISG was charged with the missions of assessing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, supporting counter-terrorism and the POW/MIA search under combat conditions in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

General McMenamin assumed duties as the Assistant Division Commander of 2d Marine Division during December of 2004, returning to Iraq in February, 2005. Most significantly was his personal effort in the engagement of the newly elected Iraqi Leadership of Al Anbar Province. Through his tireless efforts and leadership, he laid the foundation for the Division's governance, economics, security and influence Lines of Operation that enabled the Iraqi citizens to continue regional development and participate in Iraq's Constitutional Referendum and the National Elections. Upon returning to

the Camp Lejeune, he served as the Commanding General (Rear) for over 17,000 Marines and Sailors. He oversaw the Division's Pre-deployment Training Plan and execution of evolving training requirements at Mojave Viper in preparation for deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

General McMenamin's personal military decorations also include the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of Second Award, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Throughout his career, General McMenamin demonstrated resolute character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his Marines. General McMenamin's decisive decisions have and continue to contribute to the present day Marine Corps, as well as lay the foundation for the future of the Corps. We are grateful for General McMenamin's dedication, patriotism, advice and counsel. While the Marines will certainly miss him, General McMenamin's actions have already inspired the future leadership of the Corps. One needs to look no further than the Marines under his command for evidence of his mentorship and encouragement.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize General McMenamin's extraordinary accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, and to his sons Joe and Jim, on a long and distinguished career.

HONORING THE WOMEN IN AMERICAN AVIATION

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Ninety-Nines, Inc. the International Organization of Women Pilots, which was founded by Amelia Earhart in 1929, is holding their International Conference in Washington, DC, July 5 through July 9, 2006.

Many of their members served as WASPS during World War II, ferrying airplanes throughout the United States and Europe. Today, their members are commercial airline pilots for major airlines, general aviation pilots and pilots in the Armed Forces serving all over the world.

The Ninety-Nines mission in the fields of aviation and aerospace is primarily educational and charitable. They have sponsored aerospace workshops for teachers, airport tours for school children, fear-of-flying clinics for airline passengers and flight revalidation seminars.

More than 75 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration pilot safety programs in the United States are sponsored by the Ninety-Nines.

Their visit to Washington during the Fourth of July is a special celebration and will allow them to honor women in aviation in this very special city that speaks to the heart of each of their members.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK MURPHY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 36 years of unstinting public service by Syracuse Housing Authority Director Frederick Murphy. I have known Fred for many years and I speak for many when I say he is one public servant who will be truly missed when he retires this week.

During his tenure, the Syracuse Housing Authority has become a national leader in developing tenant organizations and encouraging resident involvement. When Mayor Lee Alexander asked Fred to take this job in 1970, the authority was facing a number of serious problems. Working with HUD, Fred was able to reorganize the housing authority into the high performer it is today. In only a short time, the housing authority had achieved full occupancy and satisfied the residents.

Today Syracuse administers 2,500 public housing apartments, 1,300 for the elderly and 1,200 for families. Syracuse also manages more than 3,200 Section 8 vouchers, which bring more than \$15 million each year to the annual economy.

During his tenure, SHA has added 325 units of housing for elderly and people with disabilities, along with another 225 units of family housing. The success of its Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program—500 enrolled households and \$1 million in escrow—led to its selection by HUD as a prototype home ownership program.

Since 1972, Syracuse has also put \$180 million in capital funds to work modernizing aspects of every one of the city's public housing developments. Another example of Fred's leadership was the SHA decision to convert two schools to housing for the elderly, addressing an issue facing communities across the Nation.

Fred did not confine his leadership to Syracuse. He has been a strong national voice for public housing, serving on the board of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and testifying frequently before Congress.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with him on behalf of the residents of Syracuse. And while his leadership and guidance will be missed, thousands of people will continue to benefit from his work for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, due to other personal business, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Wednesday, June 28, 2006.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "no" on rollcall Number 333, "yes" on rollcall Number 334, 335, 336, 337, and 338, and "no" on rollcall Number 339.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JASON JAMES BUZZARD, UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ ON JUNE 21, 2006

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Jason James Buzzard, United States Army, who was killed in action in Iraq on June 21, 2006, when a bomb exploded near his cargo truck while he was engaged in combat south of Baghdad. Sergeant Buzzard, 31, a resident of Mendocino County, California, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Sergeant Buzzard was born in the town of Willits, California. He graduated from Ukiah High School in Ukiah, California, where he worked for a time before fulfilling a lifelong dream to join the military.

According to his wife Michele, Sergeant Buzzard "always wanted to defend his country." He joined the U.S. Army on February 18, 1998. He was stationed in Colorado and Korea before being stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, with the Second Battalion, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division.

Sergeant Buzzard was deployed to Iraq in November 2005. He excelled at his job, was highly regarded by his unit and twice received the Good Conduct Medal. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge and Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) patch, for which he was most proud.

In addition to his wife Michele, his high school sweetheart and closest companion for 13 years, Sergeant Buzzard is survived by daughter Michala Rae, son Tristan James, parents Marilyn and Jerry Buzzard, sister Kelly Lyn MacMillan, and an extended loving family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason James Buzzard died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice. It is, therefore, appropriate at this time that we honor and recognize Sergeant Jason James Buzzard, U.S. Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN B. JACOBS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs for his invaluable service to the residents of the San Fernando Valley and to people throughout the world. For the past 36 years, Rabbi Jacobs has provided an unwav-

ering commitment to civil rights and religious pluralism. This year, Rabbi Jacobs will be retiring from his position as Senior Rabbi of Temple Kol Tikvah in Woodland Hills, California. He leaves behind a legacy that exemplifies *tikkun olam*, the repair and healing of the world.

For many years, Rabbi Jacobs has worked to promote social justice and inter-faith and interracial relations. In 1999, he accompanied Reverend Jesse Jackson on an interfaith delegation to Yugoslavia. That delegation sought the release of captured American soldiers. When asked whether it was difficult to balance his spiritual beliefs with his personal feelings and political opinions, the Rabbi commented: "It is in our life as religious leaders to hold hands, even with people who are our enemies."

Rabbi Jacobs demonstrates the powerful impact that people of faith can have on our society through an unrelenting commitment to the protection of religious and civil rights for all people. He was honored in 2001 with the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award, presented for his efforts to promote and preserve religious liberty.

Rabbi Jacobs has served as an influential member of the Progressive Jewish Alliance, the Southern California Board of Rabbis, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the UNICEF National Board, and the Muslim American Homeland Security Congress of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department. He chaired the Governor of California's Task Force on Refugees and was a delegate to the United Nations' Conference on Refugees.

As part of his exemplary international work, Rabbi Jacobs participated in an interfaith delegation to El Salvador. He also served on a mission to Prague, Czech Republic, working in conjunction with the North American Board of Rabbis to improve Jewish-Catholic relations.

Rabbi Jacobs continues to fight racism against Muslims and to foster improved Muslim-Jewish relations in Los Angeles. In 2004, he collaborated with the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Anti-Defamation League to condemn terrorism. His efforts to denounce hate speech have allied him with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and many other similar organizations. I am pleased that he will continue his work through his most recent endeavor, the Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs Progressive Faith Foundation, whose vision is to promote the values of interfaith acceptance in the public and private sectors.

The Rabbi has also fought for wage reform to help ensure a living wage for all workers. He has also worked to mobilize the traditional coalition of African Americans and Jews to ensure fair and honest elections.

It is my honor to congratulate Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs for his noble career as Kol Tikvah's senior rabbi. His work has strengthened communities of faith, increased positive social action, and added to international understanding and cooperation. He has touched and improved the lives of people of all faiths not just in the San Fernando Valley but throughout the world.

DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LANGUAGE MINORITY CITIZENS?

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Stearns Amendment (#21). The amendment prohibits the Department expending any funds to fulfill Section 203—the Bilingual Election Assistance Provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As a representative of one of the many multiethnic districts in New York, I am fully conscious of the need to provide bilingual assistance to our language minorities and allow all our citizens the chance to participate in the democratic process. Thus far, bilingual election assistance has facilitated voting for over 200,000 Asian Americans nationwide, and caused a 50 percent increase in the Hispanic electorate in the first decade of the adoption of this provision.

The right to vote is a fundamental characteristic of a healthy democracy. Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act gives opportunities to enable every American citizen to exercise their right to vote. Unfortunately, despite our laws, many minority voters face impediments to voting. The Stearns Amendment makes Section 203 ineffectual, removing oversight from states and localities who would be free to discriminate against tax-paying American citizens and impeding their right to vote. We can spend billions of dollars to spread democracy in Iraq but we are refusing funding to give our citizens the right to vote.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) objects to the cost incurred to provide bilingual election assistance. The Oversight Hearing of the Voting Rights Act: Section 203—Bilingual Election Assistance, Part II, before the Subcommittee on Constitution, under the House Judiciary committee, revealed that 90 percent of the jurisdictions reported (in a national survey) that bilingual election assistance made up only an average of 3 percent of total election costs. Forty percent of the jurisdictions reported no extra cost for bilingual election assistance, rendering any cost-related objection to implementation of Section 203 groundless.

Eliminating Section 203 is the same as discriminating against our citizens based on their language capability. I urge my colleagues to oppose this attempt to disenfranchise American citizens. Let us not return to the era of the Jim Crow laws. As Mr. JOHN LEWIS said, "The arguments of the opponents of Section 203 are suspiciously similar to the arguments once employed for literacy tests to disenfranchise African American voters." We cannot allow a repeat of such history.

The VRA, considered by many as the most successful civil rights legislation in the country, has played a vital role in integrating all our citizens in the democratic process. Instead of proposing amendments that weaken this legislation, we must work together to immediately ensure the renewal of its expiring provisions. H.R. 9, Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 2006, has come out of the House Judiciary Committee with a favorable voting margin of 33–1, in a rare show of bipartisanship. Let us not delay the efforts to pass this bill that has had such

an important and successful effect in safeguarding the right to vote for all our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL BRANDON M. HARDY, U.S. MARINE CORPS, OF COCHRANVILLE, PA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Corporal Brandon M. Hardy of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, who laid down his life for his country.

At the age of 10, Brandon watched on television as the U.S. military liberated the people of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. This was his inspiration to dedicate his own life to serving his country. And that's what he did.

In July of 1999, directly after graduating from Octorara Area High School, Brandon enlisted in the United States Air Force. After serving for 5 years in the Air Force, Brandon joined the Marines and was sent to Iraq. On April 28 of this year, Brandon lost his life while conducting combat operations in Iraq.

Brandon Hardy understood what it means to live a life with purpose. He served a cause greater than himself. He served the cause of liberty. He gave his life so that we might be safer, and so 26 million Iraqis might have the chance to live in freedom.

In May, I had the opportunity to travel to Iraq, and each Iraqi official I met with—from the Prime Minister down to a local police chief—thanked America for sacrificing so much on Iraq's behalf. They deeply understand the difference that men and women like Brandon Hardy have made for Iraq and for the world. And we at home know that the Global War on Terror is being waged to keep us safe, as well. Marine Corporal Brandon Hardy served others and gave back to his country, and his life made a tremendous difference in the world because of it.

As an airman, Brandon served in supply management, and he completed his service with the Air Force as a staff sergeant on July 6, 2004. Brandon further demonstrated his dedication to defending our Nation when he re-enlisted in the military—but, this time, with the Marine Corps on January 19, 2005. On June 3, 2005, Brandon graduated from Delta Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, South Carolina. He was assigned to the Hawaii-based 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment as an amphibious assault vehicle crewman and was promoted to corporal on April 1, 2006.

The 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion's mission is "to transport the surface assault elements of the landing force from amphibious shipping to inland objectives during the amphibious assault and to provide support to mechanized operations ashore. The amphibious assault vehicles are primarily utilized to transport personnel in tactical operations." The battalion is part of the 1st Marine Division, a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force, that provides fully trained units and personnel to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and other objectives in the Global War on Terrorism.

On April 28, 2006, Brandon made the supreme sacrifice for his country. He was killed

while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Anbar Province in Iraq when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Brandon earned a number of awards throughout his career in both the Air Force and Marine Corps, which demonstrates his professionalism and outstanding ability as an airman and a Marine. His awards include an Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Medal with Valor, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, a Purple Heart (death), and an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

May God grant to Brandon's family and his fiancée the peace that passes all understanding. My prayers and most heartfelt gratitude go out to them, and I offer them my deepest condolences. I am humbled by the dedicated service and sacrifice of their loved one, Corporal Brandon Hardy. Brandon joins the revered ranks of the many thousands of men and women throughout American history who have gone before him in battle to secure the liberty of the United States of America. He is an inspiration to us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMANDA TRUMPETER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of students compete in the Congressional Art Competition in my district. I would like to take this time to honor Amanda Trumpeter of Chatfield High School. Her winning artwork will be on display with hundreds of her peers' artwork from around the country.

Ms. Trumpeter is outstanding student in both arts and academics. She has been accepted into the Advanced Placement teacher cadet program as well as being on Honor Roll. Ms. Trumpeter has also served as the President of the National Art Honor Society.

Ms. Trumpeter has is a proud recipient of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design summer expressions pre-college scholarship for her artistic abilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Ms. Trumpeter and her achievements here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2006. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and

presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, will be held at Harrison Park in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The upcoming oath ceremony will be a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success and a good life than here in America.

On July 4, 2006, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Ledwin Jose Polanco Abreu, Ruchi Prabhakar Parikh, Fiona Bage, Lyubov Ezerska, Victor Rene De Leon Lopez, Simon Gomez Zuniga, Inese Steinbahs, Edgar Leonel Lopez Juarez, Kyung Ho Yum, Mila Plavsic, Elvira Tirado, Branko Prpa, Miyoko Kawanoue, Doaa Fayez El Malh, Fabian Navarro Patino, Ghali Abdul Waheb Alsaymari, Hiraben Bhogilal Devgan, Doris Monika Cox, Bertha Romero, Grace Haesuk Lee, Vasilj Plavska, Mary Theckenath, Ilir Aliu, Young Jean Choi, Ilce Angelkoski, Elizabeth Murphy, Ernesto Berong Chan, Ivonne Golfis, Prajwal Rajappa, Georgios Mihail Krinis, Alejandro Vega, Mohammed Riaz, Eva Lazaroski, Fady Eissa El Malh, Josue Daniel Bojorquez Nunez, Barbara Ivette Quezada, Danilo Djuric, Enero Manguerra Salunga, Jose Peregrino, Maureen Alexis Stevens, Chun Gao Fred Li, John Raymond Tanner, Martha Gutierrez De Rangel, Sayyada Mushthari Begum, Aline Cortes, Sandra Elaine Fraley, Vicente Gil Baltazar, Maria Isabel Maldonado, and Aladean Naji Shalabi.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "...of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2006, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

KAZAKHSTAN'S CANDIDACY FOR OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next week, Kassymzhomart Tokaev, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, will be visiting Washington. Given Kazakhstan's growing strategic and economic significance, his agenda with U.S. Government officials and Congress is likely to be broad-ranging. But a key focus of Minister Tokaev's discussions will certainly be Kazakhstan's bid to serve in 2009 as Chair-in-Office of the 56-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Kazakhstan has been avidly pursuing this prestigious leadership post since 2003. The consensus decision must be made by this fall, in time for the December OSCE Ministerial Meeting.

While I support the idea of Central Asian leadership of the OSCE, my purpose today is to point out the very serious problems with Kazakhstan's candidacy. As many of my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission have concluded, awarding Kazakhstan the political leadership of OSCE in 2009 would be unwarranted and potentially dangerous for the Organization. President Nursultan Nazarbaev, in his opening statement at a recent OSCE meeting in Almaty, even admitted: "We do not . . . have established democratic principles." Therefore, allowing Kazakhstan to assume the chairmanship by default is not acceptable. Kazakhstan's chairmanship bid must be deferred until the country substantially implements its OSCE commitments, especially those on human rights and democratization.

Defenders of Kazakhstan's candidacy have pointed to the country's economic reforms and relative freedom, compared to the rest of Central Asia. I concur that Kazakhstan is far ahead of the police states of Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan. But that is no great achievement. Surpassing the worst of the worst does not confer an automatic right to hold the chairmanship of the OSCE which is dedicated to upholding human rights and promoting democracy.

It has long been the State Department's position "that any Chair of the OSCE must be in substantial compliance with all OSCE commitments." Over several years now, high-level U.S. Government officials have provided Nazarbaev and other Kazakh officials clear, concrete indicators of the progress necessary before serious consideration could be given to U.S. support for Kazakhstan's Chair-in-Office bid.

Yet long-promised political reforms in Kazakhstan have not materialized and the human rights climate remains poor, as documented in the State Department's annual reports. Kazakhstan's oil riches, strategic location and cooperation with the United States in antiterrorism programs cannot conceal the fact that the country remains an authoritarian state. President Nazarbaev has manipulated constitutional referendums and falsified elections to stay in power, while his relatives and friends have gained monopoly positions in the most profitable sectors of the economy. Independent and opposition media have been consistently harassed and pressured, and opposi-

tion politicians have been excluded from elections, or worse.

Such was the state of affairs before last December's presidential election, which was widely seen as a "make-or-break" moment for Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, the government failed to uphold its international commitments before, during and following the election. Despite repeated pledges from Nazarbaev to hold a free and fair contest, the OSCE observation mission stated the election "did not meet a number of OSCE commitments" due to "restrictions on campaigning, harassment of campaign staff and persistent and numerous cases of intimidation by the authorities" which "limited the possibility for a meaningful competition."

The election was a serious blow to Kazakhstan's chances to chair the OSCE. The recent establishment of the State Commission on the Development and Realization of the Programme of Political Reforms comes after the major elections, too late to have any definitive liberalizing effects. In addition, a string of events has accentuated the disturbing gap between OSCE commitments and Kazakhstan's implementation.

Last November, opposition politician and former Mayor of Almaty Zamanbek Nurkadilov was found dead in his home. According to Kazakh authorities, he shot himself three times—twice in the chest and once in the head. The official version of his death is, kindly put, implausible in the extreme.

In February, opposition politician Altynbek Sarsenbaev, along with his driver and unarmed bodyguard, was shot in an apple orchard outside Almaty. The official investigation has placed the blame for this brazen crime on Erzhan Utembaev, head of the administration of the Senate, who allegedly engaged the services of some security officers.

It is fair to say that this explanation for Sarsenbaev's death has failed to satisfy many observers. What is indisputable, however, is that anyone involved in opposition politics in Kazakhstan risks, in the worst case scenario, not merely electoral defeat but murder.

Furthermore, Kazakh officials have backed Russian plans to eviscerate the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which, among other important democracy promoting activities, undertakes the OSCE's election observation missions. This would pose a grave threat to the OSCE as an institution and as the most credible election monitoring organization in the world.

Recent statements and actions by local Kazakh authorities against a Hare Krishna community outside of Almaty and actions to penalize minority religious communities for unregistered religious practice run counter to OSCE norms and Kazakhstan's stated commitment to inter-religious tolerance.

On March 20, President Nazarbaev praised Uzbek President Islam Karimov's handling of unrest in Andijon in May 2005. Praise for the Andijon massacre that left hundreds dead in Uzbekistan—and which moved the OSCE, the U.S. Government and international organizations to call for an independent, impartial investigation—are hardly the "reforms" one expects of a country that hopes to chair the OSCE. The forced repatriation of Uzbek refugees to Uzbekistan was equally alarming.

Just today, Kazakhstan's upper house passed a highly restrictive media law that has been criticized by the OSCE's Representative

on the Media and the U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan. It is hoped that President Nazarbaev will not sign this problematic bill into law.

Mr. Speaker, in light of these circumstances, Kazakhstan's bid to chair the OSCE in 2009 cannot be supported. I strongly believe that backing Kazakhstan's candidacy would cause more difficulties than will result from Astana's disappointment over not winning this prize.

None of this means that we should not strive to develop the best possible relations with Kazakhstan, on a mutually beneficial basis. There are many areas of current and potential cooperation between our countries, including Kazakhstan's entry into the WTO, energy, military security and anti-terrorism. Nor does my inability to support Kazakhstan's candidacy for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2009 mean that I do not hope to be able to back a future bid. Nothing would please me more than to report to this Chamber that Kazakhstan has met its commitments on democratization and human rights and richly deserves to lead the OSCE. A Kazakh chairmanship would also move the Organization eastward in the symbolic sense, bridging what has become an uncomfortable gap between the former Soviet republics and Europe.

But that moment has not yet come, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage the Kazakh leaders to avail themselves of the opportunity of additional time to constructively engage the OSCE. Working to ensure that the Organization succeeds would aid Kazakhstan's bid for a future chairmanship, while expressing sour grapes over a denial can only add to the impression that Kazakhstan is not ready for a leadership role.

The OSCE Chairmanship represents acknowledgement of progress already made, not a stimulus to future, unproven progress. Urging the Kazakhs to defer their bid would leave the door open for Astana, should demonstrable reforms on human rights and democratization be forthcoming. That progress was promised by President Nazarbaev, when he signed the Helsinki Accords as his country joined the OSCE in 1992.

INTRODUCTION OF BIRTHDAY RESOLUTION FOR WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my friend and colleague from New York, Representative NITA LOWEY, I am introducing a resolution to recognize President Clinton's 60th birthday which will occur this August 19th. President Clinton has had a long and distinguished career in public service including serving as Governor of Arkansas and President of the United States. During Clinton's two terms in the White House, this country experienced unprecedented economic expansion including the creation of 22 million jobs. He worked with our NATO allies to end the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and he played a major role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Since leaving office in 2001, President Clinton has continued to devote himself to helping people around the world through the

Clinton Foundation. It is because of his commitment to not only the American people, but to the people of the world that I am honored today to recognize President Clinton's birthday and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4890, LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. I rise in strong opposition to this sham budget proposal offered by Republican Leadership. This legislation will not reduce the deficit or spending through earmarks and will grant unprecedented power to the Executive Branch.

The line-item veto proposed today will expand Presidential power and challenge the separation of powers critical to the function of our government. It is an extreme dilution of the authority of the legislative branch if the President can hold a member's priorities hostage in order to garner votes for other initiatives. We have already seen an increase in abuse of power by the leadership in this House in order to force members to vote with the President, particularly during the debate on Medicare Part D, CAFTA, and last year's budget reconciliation bill.

Republicans today are decrying the practice of earmarking projects. However, since 1996, under the Republican watch, the number of earmarks has grown from 3,023 to 13,012 last year. As the Majority party, Republicans have had the power for the last 12 years to reduce earmarks and to add oversight to this process. But as former Reagan official Bruce Bartlett stated, "George W. Bush has turned out to be one of the most free-spending presidents on records . . . Apparently there is no pork barrel program so egregiously unjustified that he won't sign it into law".

This Republican Majority has lost all credibility on fiscal responsibility. Since President Bush took office, the Administration and Republicans in Congress have turned a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$3.2 trillion deficit. Our federal debt is \$8.3 trillion—much of which is borrowed from foreign countries. In fact, this Administration has borrowed more money from foreign nations than all 42 previous U.S. Presidents combined. And under Republican rule this Congress has had to raise the debt limit four times.

A line-item veto will not solve this problem. In fact, the way this bill is written, it could actually increase spending. According to the Congressional Budget Office, giving the President this extraordinary new authority will allow the Chief Executive to pressure Members to support Administration priorities in return for promises not to cancel projects. Studies of states that have a line-item veto have documented this effect in state legislatures.

Mr. SPRATT offered a substitute measure in the Rules Committee that would have taken a real step in addressing our budget deficit. This bill would restore pay as you go rules, forcing Congress to face our spiraling deficit. It would also reduce earmarks by mandating public dis-

closure, and prevent reconciliation from increasing the deficit. Unfortunately, as is too often the case, the Rules Committee denied the House the opportunity to vote on this alternative. Mr. Chair, if Republicans were serious about restoring fiscal discipline we would be having a real discussion today about the Democratic substitute.

I believe strongly that it is our moral responsibility to reduce the deficit and to relieve our children and grandchildren of this reckless legacy. However, the bill on the floor today is another attempt to ask the American people to believe the Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility, while actually making our budget situation worse. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE ASILOMAR CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the California State Parks Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA. Ordinarily, one would not expect a Member to rise on the floor to acknowledge the birthday of a conference grounds, but Asilomar is no ordinary place. For starters, Asilomar is nestled in the coastal dunes of the Monterey Peninsula. The name itself is Spanish for refuge by the sea.

Asilomar also boasts an extraordinary history. It began life in 1912 as the western regional conference grounds for the YWCA on 30 acres of beach front property donated by the precursor of the Pebble Beach Company. Within a year, the YWCA hired the pioneering San Francisco architect Julia Morgan. By 1921, additional land had been donated and many buildings were completed, including the centerpiece Phoebe Hearst grand meeting hall. The center could by then accommodate up to 500 people at a time. Over the course of the 20s, Asilomar grew not only as a site for YWCA activities but also as a center for religious retreats, Scouting events, and very popular summer camps. All of that ended with the Depression. Unable to pay its bills, the YWCA decided in 1934 to cease operating Asilomar. For almost 20 years Asilomar floundered along under various concession or cooperative agreements until the YWCA finally decided to sell the property in 1951.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Asilomar is part of my own family's story. In 1955, my father Fred Farr entered the California State Senate. And while it is true that my father cared deeply about the future of Asilomar, it is also true that my mother Janet would have never let him ignore the question of its future. That year my father authored legislation along with his Assembly counterpart, Alan Patee, directing the State Parks Department to purchase Asilomar for the now unbelievably low amount of \$350,000. The bill, SB 2007, passed both houses of the legislature without opposition. Unfortunately, Governor Knight then vetoed every park bill before him that summer. Needless to say, that act did not make the Governor a very popular man on the Monterey Peninsula. The uproar over the veto forced the administration to rethink its position. In December 1955, the Governor reversed his opposition to Asilomar's purchase. In the ensuing

months, my father helped to broker a purchase and operating agreement between the YWCA, Pacific Grove, and the State. Those efforts culminated in the July 1, 1956 transfer of Asilomar to the State of California.

Asilomar has since grown into one of the most unique public interest conference grounds in the world. It hosts conference groups as diverse as the annual Eco Farm conference, the Nation's largest annual organic farming gathering and an annual national gathering of electronic intelligence specialists. Last year, Asilomar saw over 175,000 guests from 1,000 different groups who netted the State over \$3 million in fee revenues.

It is a legacy that my father remained supremely proud of throughout the remainder of his life. When he passed away in 1997, he had spent over 20 years on the park's official advisory commission and had spent countless hours offering formal and informal advice on the management and future of Asilomar. So while this anniversary is a celebration of a unique public park, it is also the celebration of one of my father's most cherished personal achievements.

HONORING JO MERRILL ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jo Merrill, a tireless public health advocate for healthy babies, on the occasion of her retirement from the March of Dimes after 22 years.

Today is a bittersweet day for all of us in Congress who have been involved in the effort to improve the health of babies in this country. For many Members, Jo Merrill has become the face of the March of Dimes. She educated us with the facts, challenged us to take action, and supported our efforts to improve the lives of infants through public health policy. The legacy that she leaves behind is one of healthier babies across this country, and we here in Washington will miss her wisdom and her dedication.

Jo joined the March of Dimes National Office of Government Affairs in 1984, after 10 years working for several members of Congress. The first twelve years of her tenure with the March of Dimes she focused on state based advocacy, working closely with their Chapters and Regional offices. In 1996 she moved to her current position as Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs.

Jo has played a key role in gaining enactment of a number of bills important to the March of Dimes and the health of babies. Jo made an important contribution to the creation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), an effort that has resulted in the expansion of health insurance for countless uninsured children across our country. She also gave guidance for the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998, which authorized a comprehensive birth defects surveillance, research and prevention program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). She was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Children's Health Act of 2000, which established the National Center on Birth Defects

and Developmental Disabilities at CDC, expanded the National Folic Acid Education Campaign, and authorized a Federal newborn screening program. And finally, Jo was a strong advocate for the reauthorization of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities in 2003.

It has been my privilege to have worked with Jo to improve the health of infants through two of these major public health efforts. The first was policy aimed at increasing folic acid consumption by women in order to reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in babies. Jo was instrumental in helping my staff and I draft the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999, which was successfully passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. Since that time, Jo has been an effective advocate in pushing for increased funding for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a national folic acid education campaign, and we have been successful in making incremental progress each year in preventing these unnecessary birth defects.

My staff and I have also worked closely with Jo on the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act. My bill will educate parents and health care providers about newborn screening, improve follow-up care for infants with an illness detected through newborn screening, and help states expand and improve their newborn screening programs, in order to help save thousands of babies each year from unnecessary disability and death. It is our hope that this legislation will pass the House and Senate in the very near future, and when it does, it will become yet another piece of the legacy that Jo leaves here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to personally congratulate Jo Merrill on her retirement from the March of Dimes. I wish her the very best in her new life on the South Carolina coast. Charleston is inheriting a woman of great wisdom, charm and commitment, and I am sure that she will continue to make significant contributions in her efforts as a Public Affairs volunteer.

It is my hope that this accomplished and deserving woman will find much happiness and fulfillment in this new phase of her life. Godspeed, Jo.

COMMENDING ALFREDO GONZALEZ
KAME

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Alfredo Gonzales Kame.

Mr. Kame was a great father, grandfather, and soldier. He served this country with honor, even though his family was the victim of discrimination. His father and brother were interned at the Poston Internment Camp in Poston, Arizona. He fought for his country and against the prejudice impacting his family and was courageous in both fights.

Mr. Kame, of Japanese and Hispanic heritage, was always proud of his heritage and his service to his country. A World War II veteran from Hayden, Arizona, he proudly served with Company C of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Alfredo enlisted in June 1942 and eventually wound up in Camp Shelby with the 100th. He

was deployed to North Africa and was involved in a number of campaigns including Monte Cassino, Anzio-Rome, Belvedere, Rome-Amo, Bruyeres-Biffontaine, German Gothic Line, Po Valley, and Rhineland. He was wounded in battle in Vosges Mountains at Bruyeres, France on October 15, 1944.

He was awarded a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

After his service in the Army, he returned to Hayden in 1948, where he lived until his death. He worked for 30 years as a mill foreman for Kennecott Copper Corporation and retired in 1983.

Mr. Kame leaves a great legacy for his family and his community. He lived his entire life with honor and courage. He fought valiantly in World War II while overcoming prejudice within his country. I rise today to thank Mr. Kame and his family for their sacrifice and to ask that this Congress recognize his selflessness and service to our country.

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, 230 years ago today, a small and rebellious colony did an extraordinary, but simple thing. It stood up to its powerful and mighty oppressors, exploded the shackles of their tyranny and declared itself an independent nation. I rise on this Fourth of July to remember the people who gave us our present freedom, and honor them for their ability to recognize that there will always be more to unite us than divide us.

It seems obvious today that our country would be united, but in 1776, the thirteen colonies had less in common with each other than they did with their arch enemy. It is a tribute to the phenomenal leadership of our Founding Fathers that they had the vision to see past these differences, and to forge a common bond, founded on the principles that "all men are created equal," and that no government has the authority to restrict the rights of the people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These shared values are the essence of our Union. If the signers of the Declaration of Independence were the architects of the nation, the foundations they built for us were made of the strongest stone. Even during our darkest hours, we look back on the document that launched the ship of this Republic into the rough seas of the nations of the world, and we take solace in its good words.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration of our independence is a celebration of the beliefs we hold together as a nation; it is a celebration of why we are a nation; and it is, above all, a reminder to us all that our country was founded in hope, and in the desire by the good people of the thirteen colonies to build a new nation where freedom would reign forever.

CELEBRATION OF CARIBBEAN
HERITAGE MONTH**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Caribbean Heritage Month.

It is appropriate for our country to recognize the numerous contributions of Caribbean-Americans and our Caribbean neighbors to United States history and culture, particularly since our friendships and economic partnerships in the region continue to expand.

Caribbean immigrants are found throughout the United States, and aspects of Caribbean cultures are becoming increasingly commonplace, often touching our lives in subtle ways through art, music, literature, and science.

People from the Caribbean nations have a long and proud history here. In fact, one of our most prominent founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, was born on the Caribbean island of Nevis and then raised in St. Croix, another island of the Caribbean.

However, meaningful contributions by Caribbean immigrants began long before the American Revolution. Beginning as early as 1619, indentured workers were brought to the Jamestown colony in what is now modern-day Virginia.

Over the next four centuries, our histories and cultures became inextricably linked, so much so that many of our communities have now become an indistinguishable mixture of Caribbean and American culture and language.

My own district in South Florida is home to Bahamians, Haitians, and Jamaicans, and people from St. Kitts, Grenada, Barbados, and several other Caribbean nations.

Many of these Caribbean immigrants, as legal residents in the U.S. have enlisted in our Armed Forces and have meritoriously served

in combat, putting their lives on the line to protect the people and ideals of this Nation.

During the American Revolution, these shared ideals were evidenced by freemen from the French colony of Saint Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, who came to the United States and fought alongside our Continental Army.

Later, in 1822, it is of note that Denmark Vessey came from St. Thomas to lead an unsuccessful slave rebellion, which was the largest ever planned in our country.

Ashley Totten and Frank Crosswaith, who were born on St. Croix, helped to establish key labor unions, some still in operation today. J. Raymond Jones from St. Thomas, who is also known as the Silver Fox, ran New York City politics in the 1900s.

John James Audubon, the acclaimed naturalist and wildlife artist, was born in the former-French territory of Saint Domingue, what is now Haiti, and inspired the American conservation society that bears his namesake. W.E.B. DuBois, the Haitian-American author and political activist, became one of the most prominent, intellectual leaders of African-American society during the 20th century.

Major Joseph Savary, a Haitian, was the first black major in the United States Army, and led the Second Battalion of Freemen of Color at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, under then-General Andrew Jackson.

Other famous Caribbean Americans include former U.S. Representative, and first female presidential candidate, Shirley Chisholm; former Head of the Ford Foundation, Franklin Thomas; Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first black woman appointed to the Federal judiciary; activists such as Stokely Carmichael, Kwame Toure, Roy Innis, Malcolm X, and Lois Farrakhan; as well as world renowned actor Sidney Poitier; civil rights activist and singer Harry Belafonte; Earl Graves, philanthropist, businessman, and publisher of Black Enterprise; and now Colin Powell, the first black U.S. Secretary of State, just to name a few.

It is indeed fitting to establish a Caribbean Heritage Month as a suitable way for our country to recognize these great Caribbean-Americans and the contributions they have made to our history and society. I am proud that these contributions have finally been recognized, and I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues to pay tribute to those who have made our nation great.

INTRODUCTION OF DIBRS
LEGISLATION**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD), I introduce legislation to force the Department of Defense (DoD) to implement fully the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS). I firmly believe that the best way to effectively tackle a problem such as sexual assault in the military is to have accurate data. The DoD has made several promises that DIBRS, which collects statistics about crimes committed within the military services, would be up and running by now. Congress first mandated that the Pentagon collect crime statistics in 1988. I repeat—Congress told the DoD to do this in 1988. Yet eighteen years later, DIBRS is not slated for completion until June 2007, if we can believe the DoD. This legislation will direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that DIBRS is fully implemented by January 1, 2007. If DIBRS is not fully implemented by that date, the Secretary's salary will be deducted by \$1,000 each day starting January 1, 2007. I believe that if the DoD will not take it upon itself to make this a priority, we in Congress have a responsibility to see that our mandates are met.